

# Quotable

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\* **OBSERVER** 15th Dec '85

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**THE TIMES** 5th July '86

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**MONEY MAGAZINE** August '86

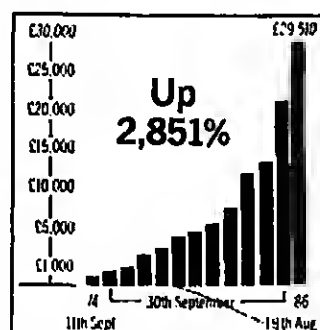
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OW25/86

# THE GUARDIAN

The Washington Post

WEEKLY

Vol. 135 No. 14 Week ending October 5, 1986

## Labour defence line worries US

AS the political conference season continued in Britain, it became clear that defence would be one of the main issues at the next general election — and that both the Liberal and Social Democratic Alliance and the Labour Party would have great difficulty in getting their respective acts together to make a credible case to put before voters. Labour is committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament, but in a television interview on Monday, the day the Labour conference opened in Blackpool, Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, indicated that if the rest of Nato wanted it he would not rule out absolutely retention of American nuclear weapons in Britain. The party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, in the same programme emphasised his commitment to a non-nuclear Britain but also stressed the need to strengthen conventional defences.

Against the advice of the Liberal leadership, Liberals voted at their assembly for a non-nuclear defence for Britain, which puts them at odds with the other half of the Alliance, the SDP, who voted at their conference to continue the nuclear commitment. The Conservative Party conference has yet to take place.

The American Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, is worried by the Labour attitude. "I think that it would be taking quite a chance with the people's liberty and freedom and the independence of Britain and the future of Europe if, for an independent nuclear deterrent that does play a major role in keeping the peace, you substitute what was called in world war one, and later in world war two under similar circumstances, a piece of paper." Dismantling Britain's deterrent and removal of American nuclear weapons would be "an invitation to attack".

## Party in need of a convincing salesman

By David Fairhall

If ever anything called for a pre-emptive strike, it is the Labour Party's campaign to sell its radical, non-nuclear defence policy to the United States and the other Nato allies who would have to live with it.

A paradox of the current party political debates on defence is that while the Liberal-SDP Alliance writes in agony over just one aspect of its policy — how to make up its mind on a replacement for the Polaris submarine missile force — Labour acts as if its own much more drastic proposals could be carried through with no more than a polite exchange of diplomatic notes between London, Washington and Brussels.

"Dear Pentagon, You may have noticed that we have had a change of government here in London. Would you be kind enough to remove all your nuclear weapons from British territory by the end of next month. Hoping this does not disrupt any of your other Nato plans, Yours sincerely..."

This week's television appearance by the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, and his assistant, Mr Richard Perle, shows how misguided such a complacent attitude would be. Their respective comments are that Labour's policy would be likely to lead to the break up of Nato and is in any case

## The summit back on course

By Halla Pick

PRESIDENT REAGAN can now safely look forward to a friendly chat with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Oval Room of the White House: Nicholas Daniloff's departure from Moscow means that a pro-Chinese superpower summit has become a virtual certainty.

But the end of the Daniloff affair has done more than lift a heavy pall over US-Soviet relations: it may well turn out to have cleared the air in a way that will make it easier, in future, for the two superpowers to tackle the immensely complex agenda that will continue to confront them far beyond the next summit.

Certainly Nicholas Daniloff's release must be interpreted as confirmation that both superpowers now believe that the log-jam in arms control negotiations has been broken, and that enough progress has been made on intermediate nuclear weapons negotiations — perhaps also on other aspects of the nuclear arms race — to use the summit as an essential marker towards new treaties designed to reduce the balance of terror between East and West.

With this glimpse of the future, the US Secretary of State, George Shultz, set to work with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, to solve the Daniloff case. They were able to set aside the formality of their occasional, carefully organised meetings, and to see each other in New York this past week on an almost daily basis. They were able, it seems, to find a formula that would satisfy honour on both sides.

It may turn out that Daniloff's anguish in Moscow will not have been in vain, and that the price that Moscow is willing to pay for extracting Gennady Zakhurov, the Russian now in US custody, includes freedom for at least some prominent Soviet dissidents.

Mr Gorbachev must have been closely involved in the solution that has now been found. But it may never be known whether Mr Gorbachev was consulted by the KGB before they swooped on Daniloff a month ago on the Lenin Hills moments after an acquaint-

ance had handed him an envelope containing maps marked "secret".

President Reagan, then still holidaying in California, did not apparently spot immediately that Daniloff's arrest would provoke a passionate outcry against Soviet "hostage-taking". Incidentally, he let it be known that he would consider a straight Daniloff-Zakhurov trade-off.

The Russians delayed their reply. President Reagan's political antennae came forward. He realised that his domestic backyard was demanding toughness, not appeasement, and that the anti-armament and anti-arms controllers had found in Daniloff a wonderful justification for their cause. The Kremlin, too, appears to have understood that the Daniloff affair had become a smoking gun. All the evidence points to the assumption that Mr Gorbachev then insisted on a damage-limitation operation. And at the end of the day, and in spite of the explosion of 25 Soviet officials at the UN, both sides decided enough was enough.

THE PARTY POLICIES	POLARIS	TRIDENT	CRUISE	US BASES	NATO	ARMS CONTROL
ALLIANCE	Still in two minds	Cancel	Limit deployment under "dual key"	Maintain under closer control	Strengthen the European pillar	Promote last moratorium and weapons-free zone
CONSERVATIVE	Phase out for Trident	Continue to deployment	Continue Nato deployment plan	Maintain under present rules	Support status quo	Seek multilateral cuts while continuing tests
LABOUR	Decommission unconditionally	Cancel	Remove from UK	Maintain without nuclear weapons	Promote new non-nuclear strategy	Stop testing and work for European weapons-free zone

wildly irresponsible.

But if this is the sort of language they are using publicly now, at the mere prospect of a non-nuclear Britain, imagine what they would say and do behind the scenes if the prospect became an immediate reality. The sort of bullying that went on over New Zealand's decision not to receive nuclear warships would be as nothing to the diplomatic rough house that would break out if the United States' direct superpower relationship with the USSR and its leadership of a nuclear-based Nato were suddenly threatened by a discordant British voice.

One of the crucial features of Labour's nuclear policy by comparison with the Alliance is that it proposes the total rejection not only of domestic systems like Polaris, but a Nato programme like the US cruise missiles at Greenham Common, in which the Americans have invested a great deal of political capital and which directly impinge on their arms control relationship with the Soviet Union.

Not that Labour's policy is necessarily unworkable. On the contrary, one can already see ways through the Nato minefield if only the ground has been carefully surveyed beforehand. But that is an enormous "if".

In its statement on Defence and Security in Britain, the national executive talks confidently about using the key British postings in Nato to work for change, rather than opting out as the French did. That's all right provided you realise that the other two key members of the Alliance, the Americans and the Germans, may not be interested in working with a government that does not share their basic policy objectives.

Even the Alliance's relatively modest proposals for nuclear change are more than enough for one Parliamentary lifetime — and that with a solid majority. Cancelling Trident should be no great hassle and that, of course, goes for Labour too. Putting Greenham Common's cruise missiles under "dual key" control would be awkward, but not something the Americans could easily object to in principle, since they would certainly do the same if roles were reversed.

Creating some sort of "minimum European deterrent" with the French to replace Polaris — if that's the way the Alliance policy debaters work out — releases all sorts of problems, but if necessary the initiative could quietly be abandoned. A nuclear-free zone in West Germany could be unilaterally created by handing back Rhine

Army's nuclear artillery to the Americans.

None of these policies probe Nato's raw nerves in the way that Labour's do, and at least they are the result of long, careful, study and debate — prompted as much as anything by the need to create an Alliance. By contrast, Labour seems to think that provided its hurriedly assembled non-nuclear policy can be simply expressed, it must be equally simple to implement. In fact it cries out for more subtle, extended presentation, both domestically and internationally. Take, for instance, the question of US nuclear weapons in this country.

There are several current precedents for the Americans producing weapons for possible use in Europe which are stockpiled in the United States and could only be transferred across the Atlantic in crisis subject to consultation. Neutron bombs and binary nerve gas munitions both fall into this category and the bombs on US Air Force F-111 bases at Lakenheath and Upper Heyford could be added to it if the issue was properly handled. The Poseidon submarine base at Holy Loch could be removed on the practical grounds that the much greater range of the Trident system makes it redundant. Cancellation of our own

Trident programme could be sold on the basis that cuts in conventional defence would otherwise be necessary. None of this need be represented as a crude policy of "Yanks go home".

Cruise missiles could be more difficult, but the prospect of an arms control deal that makes the second phase at Molesworth unnecessary obviously helps (see page 7). If Labour is not satisfied with the Alliance's "dual key" veto, the diplomatic key here is to remember that this is a Nato programme, not an American one, even though the Tomahawk missiles are US-built. Any change should be negotiated through Nato channels.

There is only one man in the Labour leadership fully qualified to do the selling job Labour's policy so desperately needs, and that is Denis Healey. His response to hearing that Mr Perle thought it "wildly irresponsible" was to describe the US official as "a middle-ranking pipsqueak". The former Labour defence and foreign secretary is as tactless as ever, but he has the intellectual standing, background and contacts to pressure American and European opinion for Labour's bombshell. Mr Kinnock might do well to cancel his own forthcoming US tour and send Mr Healey instead.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Understanding terrorism

Unfortunately, recent terrorist outrages have once more attracted the public eye on this cancer of our time which is terrorism. One sad thing about terrorism is that an emotional and partisan approach to this problem in the West prevents anything constructive from being done about it. The most common cliché about terrorism are that:

1. Terrorism is a recent phenomenon. Although its international character was made possible by modern means of communication (especially the media coverage) and its devastating effects are due to new means of destruction (powerful bombs, etc) terrorism as such has always existed. For instance, the word "guerrilla" was introduced in the French language when French occupation forces were confronted with the Spanish popular uprising against the Napoleonic Empire.

2. Terrorism is a one-way phenomenon: i.e. armed militants versus the State apparatus, ordinary citizens being the victims most of the time. Actually, it is a vicious circle. To confront terrorism, States become increasingly repressive themselves. In some cases, it is the State which terrorizes the civilian population for political

(Chile) or racial (South Africa) reasons. It may be one government which sponsors terrorist operations against another (see the US support to the "Contra" in Central America). History has also witnessed (successful) terrorists becoming heads of State, such as F. Castro or M. Bagin.

Terrorism is a vague word and it is only one side of the coin. Playing with words is what makes it confusing: the "Resistance" fighters in World War II France were merely "saboteurs" from the Nazi viewpoint...

3. Terrorism is a strictly criminal activity and only technical solutions (surveillance of the population, repression at all levels, etc) are usually considered to solve the problem. This is a gross mistake in that it is only directed against the violent manifestations of terrorism — not the roots of the phenomenon. Terrorism can become an alibi to the constant reinforcement of the State apparatus. Repression does not solve the problem: it makes terrorism bearable by containing it, thus rendering the quest for suitable political solutions superfluous. Northern Ireland is a good example of such a deadlock.

4. Terrorism is on an alien threat against our "Free World". Third World fanatics aimed and abetted by Communist plotters! To a certain extent, terrorism is indeed the poor man's wasp in the confrontation of the Third World against the wealthy West: a reaction of despair from people nobody listens to, which can evolve into a gratuitous murderous frenzy. Nevertheless, terrorism is not only an "external" threat to the West: Basler-Meinhof were German citizens, weren't they? Besides, it is simplistic to seek a scapegoat as soon as a bomb explodes somewhere. Guanoat diplomacy is a 19th century form of terrorism the USA has chosen to meet the challenges of a complex 20th century crisis affecting the Middle-East.

Generally speaking, terrorism cannot be legitimate and terrorists do deserve severe punishments. Nevertheless, before choosing blind repression as the illusion of a solution, let's try to understand why terrorism is prospering at all, then determine intelligent and effective ways of coping with it.

Mr Philippe Jolly,  
1 bis rue Louis Blanc,  
92190-Meudon,  
France.

## Why safety must come first on the flight deck

Your report (Sept 28) on the inquest into the Manchester air disaster leaves an uneasy feeling that British Airways may be concentrating more on presentation than on policies in response to the lessons of the incident.

For instance, fitting flame resistant seat covers is obviously sensible, but how long will it take to equip the whole BA fleet in this way, and what, if anything, is going to be done about the seat filling materials?

The US Federal Aviation Authority has ordered manufacturers and airlines to use safer materials for cabin walls. Will this order be accepted by BA in the UK? Will it involve modifications to existing aircraft?

Support is now being given in principle to the introduction of smoke hoods for all passengers. But the discussions about specifications could drag on for years. On every flight the passengers are subjected to the meaningless ritual of the lifejacket demonstration. How many billions of miles have these jackets travelled in the last

20 years, and when, if ever, have they been used to save lives?

Meanwhile, the far more important risk of fire is largely ignored. Maybe, the airlines didn't want to disturb us too much by even mentioning this terrifying subject. But now we have all seen and heard in graphic detail precisely what is involved in an aircraft fire, and want some action. What about setting a deadline for a decision on this?

Finally, the Manchester disaster emphasised the need for a substantial redundancy margin in the provision of safety exits. Some seats are to be removed from 737s as a result. But it was less than two years ago that BA blocked up two of the safety exits on their 747 jumbo jets, flying in the face of the opinion of some safety experts and contrary to the policies of many of the world's other leading airlines. Will BA now reverse this policy decision as well? I, for one, will be reluctant to fly BA again until they do.

(Dr) G. D. W. Smith,  
Eynsham, Oxford.

## What the US Constitution says about bearing arms

Your man in Washington, Michael White, has been conned by the gun mob. ("Liberty and the pursuit of goodness" Sept 7). For the individual citizen there is no constitutional right "to bear arms" in the United States.

As Michael White indicates, the notion that individual Americans have the right to maintain a private arsenal is based on the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. That Amendment states that "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to bear arms shall not be infringed." This is the amendment in its entirety.

At the time that the American Constitution was being considered there were grave fears that the national government would, one way or another, abolish the State militias and leave the States at the mercy of a national standing army. To allay this fear, the Second Amendment was presented to the States for ratification by the first session of the first Congress, and was quickly ratified by the States, coming into effect in 1791.

The United States Supreme Court has held, in the few cases on the issue that have ever reached the Supreme Court, that there is no Constitutional right to bear arms privately. (Presser vs Illinois 116 US 252 [1885], United States vs Miller, 307 US 174 [1939].)

It is not the Constitution, but, as Michael Miller notes, the potent lobbying of the National Rifle Association that keeps reasonable

gun control legislation off the books in the United States.

Robert O. Byrd,  
Oxford Street,  
Richmond Hill, Ontario,  
Canada.

Regarding Michael White's insensitive "post haste" comment on the Oklahoma post office massacre (Liberty and the pursuit of goodness, Sept 7) would the Guardian describe a similar shooting by a deranged newspaperman as "accurate for once"?

Bart Mills,  
Manhattan Beach,  
California 90266.

## Bomb error

Michael White's article (US finally admits H bomb error, Sept 7) contains a factual error and a comparison of auspicious intent and dubious nature. Firstly, ten megatons is equivalent to 10 million tons, not one million, of TNT. Secondly, the phrase "70 Hiroshimas or 25 Chernobyls" is rather stupid. Is he suggesting that the Chernobyl explosion had the force of more than two of the type of bomb dropped on Hiroshima? Clearly ridiculous. Is he inferring by association that the explosion at Chernobyl was a nuclear one? Not true. Is he trying to establish in our minds the equivalence of nuclear bombs and nuclear power stations? Quite possibly.

L. Poltowski,  
St Anthony's,  
Masvingo,  
Zimbabwe.

## The divided Basque country

Michael Dobbs's article on the Basque Country, (Washington Post Section, Sept 7) was accompanied by a map which ignores one of the most controversial issues in the Basque problem. This map represented what is known as "Euzkadi Harria" which can be roughly translated as the Homeland of the Basque People. It didn't though, show the political line which divides the Spanish part of this area into two separate regions. Euzkadi, the autonomous Basque area and the ancient kingdom of Navarre. Society in Navarre is deeply divided as to whether the province should become part of the auto-

nous Basque region, a division which here is even likened rather unrealistically, to the Protestant/Catholic divide in Northern Ireland. The present situation is characterised by strong efforts from the Socialists and rightwing parties to show public opinion away from unity with the Basque region, probably because an independent Basque country would be much more viable with Navarre's important agricultural wealth.

Nigel Bowles,  
Pamplona,  
Navarre,  
Spain.

## Defence problems plague both Alliance and Labour

THE Labour Party had hoped that its annual conference in Blackpool this week would be a relatively uncontroversial affair and that its unilateralist defence policy could be kept in the background. But the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, put paid to that hope with a widely-publicised TV broadcast in which he predicted that Labour's commitment to evict American nuclear bases would threaten the cohesion of the 16-nation Nato alliance.

The party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, had no choice but to reply. Perhaps mindful of employment prospects around the US installations, he explained that Labour would not close American bases capable of being used by nuclear-armed aircraft and missiles, but only those which had stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Nor would Labour accept the protection of a US nuclear umbrella. "I think it would be immoral to do so," he said.

Mr Kinnock knows full well that he will have the problem of trying

to convince a sceptical electorate, which rejected Labour unilateralism at the last election, that his party will provide the country with an effective defence. It is a problem he will now share with the Liberals who, at their conference last week, threw their Alliance with the Social Democrats into disarray by voting — albeit narrowly — for a policy stipulating that Britain should develop a non-nuclear defence contribution to Nato.

This decision, taken against the advice of the party leader, Mr David Steel, and most Liberal MPs, would appear to preclude the possibility of an Anglo-French replacement for the Polaris nuclear deterrent system when it becomes obsolete in the mid-1990s. Since the SDP leader, Dr David Owen, has a cast-iron commitment to develop such a replacement, the Alliance is now in disarray on a subject which, its leaders agree, is strategically explosive.

Mr Steel, who delivered his party a stern lecture on its elec-

torially, really had only himself to blame for the mess. His sudden conversion — as recently as last month — to the notion of Anglo-French bomb was seen as a humiliating attempt to placate the inflexible Dr Owen, who is thought by many grassroots Liberals to be far too big for his boots anyway. Until it was overridden by Dr Owen, the Alliance took the view.

THE WEEK IN BRITAIN  
by James Lewis

around which both parties were able to unite, that there was no need to take any binding decisions about Polaris until the early 1990s, by which time the international arms situation could look quite different.

One of the better things to happen to the Opposition parties has been the appointment of Mrs Edwina Curry as Health Minister. Brusquely dismissing the evidence, now widely accepted by the medical profession, of causal links between poverty and ill-health,

she told an audience in the North of England that their relatively poor health was due in part to their own ignorance compared with the more enlightened South.

The North spent too much money on chips and potato crisps, she scolded. "We have problems here of high smoking and alcoholism. Some of these problems are things we can tackle by impressing on people the need to look after themselves better. That is something which is taken more seriously down South. There is no reason why it cannot be taken seriously up here."

She had nothing to say about the findings of a Bristol University study, published the same day, that the region's figures for premature death, permanent sickness and low birth-weight babies were related to its mass unemployment, poor housing and record poverty.

The public flotation of the Trustee Savings Bank was oversubscribed eight times. Some five million applicants applied for shares worth £1.5 billion, which means that at least two million of the applicants will receive nothing, and many others will receive fewer shares than they had asked for. Building societies reported heavy withdrawals by investors who thought that the bank shares were a better proposition.

The Government's scapegoat for stimulating the economy — a course urged by the Reagan administration — was severely limited by a record current account deficit in August of £860 million. On this occasion, little of the deterioration could be attributed to falling oil prices; the reason was,

quite simply, the continuing increase in imports and an even greater decrease in visible exports.

The weakness of sterling, particularly against the German mark, caused a slump in share prices and the Financial Times 30-share index fell on Monday by 21 points to 1,212, which is the lowest for seven months. Though the Bank of England intervened in the foreign exchanges, the City clearly believed that a rise in interest rates is now seriously on the cards.

Three directors lost their jobs when Rover, the state-owned car and truck firm, showed a loss of £204 million for the first half of this year. This compares with a deficit of £44.8 million for the comparable period of last year. One of those dismissed was the division's long-serving chairman and chief executive, Mr Harold Muirgrove, who incurred Mrs Thatcher's displeasure when he opposed the Tory plan to sell Austin Rover to Ford of America earlier this year.

The Ministry of Defence announced that a third of the 18,000 jobs at Britain's two remaining naval dockyards — at Devonport (Plymouth) and Rosyth (Fife) — are likely to be lost over the next eight years. The news provoked one-day strikes at the yards, both of which are due to be handed over to private management next year. The Government insisted that the planned workforce reductions reflected the lower level of maintenance required on Britain's modern defence fleet and, above all, on new competitive tendering policies which meant that more work was being carried out by private shipyards.

## Healey hints at keeping US missiles

By James Naughtie

MR DENIS HEALEY reopened one of Labour's bitter defence arguments on Monday when he raised the possibility that a Labour government might allow American nuclear weapons to stay in Britain.

The shadow foreign secretary said he thought it highly unlikely that an alternative would be found to removal — which is now party policy — but he refused to rule it out. His remarks, made in an interview on Panorama on BBC television, are certain to provoke an outburst on the left, where Mr

Healey's commitment to closure of American nuclear bases on British soil has always been doubted.

Against the background of attacks by the Reagan Administration on Labour's policy, his interview will be used by some of his opponents as evidence that he is susceptible to pressure from Washington.

Mr Healey denies such charges vigorously. On Monday at a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference, he forthrightly attacked Mr Caspar Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, and his assistant, Mr Richard Perle, for their remarks criticising Labour policy.

His Panorama interview came during a programme which included Mr Weinberger's heavily leaked comments on Labour's policy. Mr Healey was asked whether it was possible that the Americans could persuade a Labour government to allow them to keep nuclear weapons in Britain.

He replied: "I don't think the Americans could persuade us, but I think that if we take the alliance seriously we have to listen to what our allies feel as a whole." Asked by his interviewer, "So we could end up keeping America's weapons here if that is what the alliance wanted?" he replied: "I doubt it, but it's not inconceivable."

With the party fully committed to a non-nuclear defence policy and to removing all American nuclear weapons — a policy reaffirmed by Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, at the weekend — Mr Healey's comments are embarrassing and will cause trouble for Mr Kinnock among some of his opponents on the left.

Mr Kinnock himself was emphatic in the same programme about his commitment to a non-nuclear Britain, but also in strengthening conventional defence. Speaking with obvious emotion, he said that if he were a soldier he would be prepared to die for his family or his country. But he would never be prepared to wipe out humanity in a nuclear war.

Mr Kinnock and Mr Healey are visiting the US in the next few months — Mr Kinnock twice — and one of their principal aims will be to try to convince senior officials in the Administration that they would seek, in government, a new stable relationship with the US despite the party's determination to create a non-nuclear Britain.

Senior officials from the US embassy in London are in Black-

pool at the conference. Mr Weinberger's remarks are said to have caused some embarrassment in London, despite the frankness with which embassy officials have spoken to Labour leaders in private about their attitude to the party's defence policy.

On Panorama, Mr Weinberger said that he was worried by the non-nuclear commitment. "I think that it would be taking quite a chance with the people's liberty and freedoms and the independence of Britain and the future of Europe, if for an independent nuclear deterrent that does play a major role in keeping the peace, you substitute what was called in world war one, and later in world war two under similar circumstances, a piece of paper."

He went on to claim that dismantling Britain's deterrent and removal of American nuclear weapons would be "an invitation to attack."

At his fringe meeting Mr Healey was scolding about the Weinberger view, accusing the US Administration of colluding with Mrs Thatcher's government in attacking Labour and making dangerous cuts in conventional weapons. He said Labour promised an effective defence strategy which would make more sense for Britain.

He also took the opportunity to assail the Liberals and the Social Democrats for their arguments over a Polaris replacement, accusing Dr David Owen of having said Mr David Steel "a pup which he knew to be a pup."

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

	Spotting Rates September 29	Previous Closing Rates
Australia	2.2830-2.2970	2.2760-2.2900
Austria	20.42-20.45	20.40-20.45
Belgium	60.18-60.20	60.14-60.15
Canada	1.2620-1.2610	1.2600-1.2590
Denmark	10.95-10.97	11.00-11.11
France	0.50-0.52	0.52-0.54
Germany	2.0025-2.0070	2.00-2.04
Hong Kong	11.15-11.20	11.14-11.15
Ireland	1.0604-1.0614	1.0719-1.0729
Italy	2.005-2.011	2.002-2.038
Japan	230.25-230.85	221.73-222.10
Netherlands	3.2013-3.2037	3.20-3.30
Norway	10.55-10.57	10.55-10.58
Portugal	210.04-212.52	211.45-213.04
Spain	161.37-161.65	163.04-163.91
Sweden	1.035-1.037	0.97-0.98
Switzerland	2.3552-2.3590	2.347-2.3485
USA	1.4325-1.4345	1.4375-1.4385
ECU	1.3884-1.3902	1.4030-1.4050

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## Fair shares for women

By Jonathan Steele

ASKED in Oslo why she had no women in her Cabinet, Mrs Thatcher launched into a long explanation of the Westminster system. Prime Ministers could not just pick people from outside Parliament for the Cabinet, she said, as they could in Norway. In Britain you had to take MPs or peers, and there were only about 25 women among 650 MPs. "This is a very limiting factor," she declared.

To most Norwegians, Mrs Thatcher's argument would sound like an explanation of the sex and a flimsy one at that. For what is remarkable about Norway is not just that its woman Prime Minister has appointed seven others to the Cabinet, but that a large proportion of the Norwegian Labour Party's MPs are women, 43 per cent to be exact.

This is a world record. It results from a decision taken by the party at its congress three years ago to impose a quota system for candidate selection. Forty per cent had to be women by the next election.

"Why had they not insisted on 50 per cent, or would that be the next target?" I asked Sissel Roanbeck, one of the oew women Cabinet members who is Minister of the Environment. "No," she replied, "we want flexibility, not a rigid formula. The party decision was actually that each sex should have at least 40 per cent of candidates and office-holders."

The Norwegian quota system has not yet been followed in Sweden where about a quarter of the Social Democratic Party Cabinet are women. But the West German SPD has just decided to work towards a 40 per cent quota in two years' time. The West German Greens have a fifty-fifty quota for their MPs.

Remarkable too is the comparative youth of the Norwegian Cabinet (average age 48). The Prime Minister is 47, Mrs Roanbeck is 38. "At no point has it been difficult

finding qualified women. We have been an under-used resource," she says.

A former chair of the party's youth organisation, and now chair of its women's organisation, she rejects the idea that Norway is a feminist paradise. Few other Western industrial countries have such a clear sex demarcation of jobs as Norway. Virtually all nurses and primary school teachers are women, for example. Indeed almost all the "caring" professions are 100 per cent women, and usually these are low-wage jobs.

Out of 20 county education chiefs only four are women. Senior university appointments are male dominated, and this spring there were campus strikes in an effort to make changes.

There may be cultural and historical reasons why Norway has more women in politics than any other place. In the remote, rural areas which typify the countryside, women always tended to be the dominant figure in the family, as men were absent for long periods at sea or trekking across difficult terrain to buy much-needed salt.

But as a professional politician, Sissel Roanbeck believes that organisation is the key factor for women's recent advances. "It is because of the process we went through during the International Women's Decade, and the fact that in the Labour Party we organised."

The expansion of creches in the 1970s and guaranteed maternity leave helped to get more women into jobs. But the part-time labour market was not enough since it mainly benefitted men who "had their cake and ate it."

Woman should press harder for maternity leave for men, and for the right for fathers to take time off when children are ill or on school holidays. "In this area Norway is embarrassingly far behind the other Nordic countries," she says.

## How I escaped from kidnappers

David Hirst, the Guardian's man in Beirut describes his ordeal



David Hirst after his escape in Beirut

HOW to get to Quabayat, the Christian village in the rugged far north of Lebanon on which the Paris bombings have conferred such a sudden international notoriety? I wanted to hear the brothers — and supposed confederates — of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, accused by the French police of participation in the terrorist campaign, protest their innocence.

But how to get anywhere, these days in the crazy mosaic of mutually hostile cantons, and the sometimes dangerous crossings between them, that is Lebanon after 11½ years of a barbarous civil war? How many thousands of Lebanese have been shot, murdered or kidnapped trying to do just that?

A northern political boss, a good friend of mine in his earlier, businessmen's days, providentially turned up in West Beirut with his bulletproof car and insisted on taking me with him one way — through the Druze's mountain fiefdom, down into the Bekaa Valley, stamping ground of Syrian soldiers, Palestinian guerrillas, assorted Shi'ite militiamen and Iranian revolutionary guards, and back over Mount Lebanon to the Syrian-controlled Akkar valley in the far north. But a mischance ruled that out.

The next best thing was the "Museum Crossing," in the heart of Beirut, closed to all but a few who can secure the necessary pass but safer than any other route for those who do. But mischance again intervened. Owing to some obscure wrangle, passes became unobtainable.

So it had to be the "southern suburbs," the vast Shi'ite slum which, since the rise of Hezbollah and fundamentalists, is apt to send a tremor through most outsiders, especially Christians and the few westerners who still inhabit the city.

Through there runs the last open crossing between the Christian and Muslim halves of this ever more divided capital. I didn't like it much, but surely two cars, a taxi driver and myself in the first and three armed men in the one behind, would be precaution enough?

But mischance can be a dogged foe. And it came, this time, in the shape of one flat tyre as we had sat out, and then, the sudden blow-out of another as we negotiated the open sewers and gigantic potholes of the narrow winding track through the chaotic sleazy archi-

tecture and rapidly deepening pasture land of the suburbs' outermost perimeter.

Yet still there was no real menace in the air. It was 8.30 in the morning. Very few people were about, and I had few qualms when the escort nipped up the road "for a couple of minutes" to bring help.

But I should have paid more attention to three young men in a beige BMW who passed in one direction and then returned in the other. When they suddenly emerged on foot I cursed myself for not having marked the tell-tale signs, the mean, inquisitive looks, of thugs on the prowl.

"Papers," one of them demanded. I produced my press card, "American?" a second man asked the first, scarcely able to believe such luck. "No, British," the first replied, with an air of implying that, these days, that was just as good a prize.

They told me to come with them, as is kidnappers' wont, for an "investigation." There had been no guns so far: this was, after all, a main, if still largely deserted, thoroughfare. But my escorts' two minutes' absence, agonisingly prolonged itself beyond my ability to resist the physical manhandling.

A man opening his hole-in-wall repair shop six yards away cast a glance in our direction, and then busied himself with other things. Once inside their car, the pistols came out — one pressed to my head, from the young and clean-shaven villain in the rear.

## Our man on the Middle East tightrope

AFTER absences of many moons, a short, abstracted looking man wanders through the Guardian to the foreign department. Word gets round that it's David Hirst, our Middle Eastern correspondent, but no one seems quite sure. He's difficult to equate with the self-effacing academic with the burrowed figure of our imagination, whose peerless reporting has earned him curses, expulsion and respect to virtually every country in the region.

Stories of his exploits are legion. Six years ago he and two women were kidnapped in Beirut by armed men and taken to an abandoned apartment, where both women were raped and Hirst was threatened with execution before a blood-stained wall. His repeated assertions of friendship with PLO leaders probably saved the day: they were driven away and dumped in the street. It is said that, on learning of the incident, the PLO meted out justice to the offenders.

A colleague recalls Hirst showing him, around Beirut Harbour, a

high security area, when the car broke down and Hirst was unable to produce his passport for a menacing policeman. "It was clearly a frightening situation. Hirst kept his head, chatted to the policemen and gave him a cigarette. The policeman finally called for assistance to push the car to safety."

Perhaps his closest shave was in Lebanon, when he was shelled by tanks commanded by Moehs Deyn's nephew, captured and sent to Israel, from where he made his way back to Lebanon. Another colleague, covering Nasser's funeral in Cairo, was amazed to spot Hirst on television, sandwiched in the official cortege between Hafez Selesse and King Hussein. Hirst had "wangled himself a ticket, alphabetically punched."

Now 50, Hirst has been on the Middle East tightrope since 1959. After National Service in Cyprus and an Oxford education he studied at the American University in Beirut before going freelance. Fluent in Arabic, he has covered most

of the world's hot spots. As we lurched through the rabbit warren that is the "southern suburbs," I pondered my prospects. If I was lucky, I thought, my kidnappers might be content with the \$500 in my pocket, a small fortune in these times of collapsing national currency.

But inevitably my thoughts took a darker turn — to two of my British predecessors, Leigh Douglas and Philip Fiald, who, kidnapped shortly before the American raid on Libya, were found murdered shortly after it. They had apparently been "sold" by just such freelance abductors as mine to a pro-Libyan organisation.

A black cloth descended over my eyes as we jolted to a halt. But I got it off. We were in a small, apparently deserted backwater, with older-established dwellings on one side, countryside on a second, and crude breeze-block hovels going up on a third.

Into one of these, it was clear, they wanted to drag me. I felt I would be done for once I was there. I resisted, and yelled at the top of my voice, but with little enthusiasm as my neighbour, pistol in my side, hissed half in Arabic, half in broken English: "Shut up, shut up, or I kill you, I kill you now."

I redoubled my efforts as a man emerged from one of the houses. But, passing within three yards of this commotion, he made as if he did not see it. I thought it was going to be hopeless.

But then, or so it seems, my abductors began to cast anxious glances around. Perhaps my yelling was having some effect, and I think I more imagined than saw faces beginning to appear in windows and doorways.

I broke loose and ran 20 yards into an alley. There was little real pursuit, and no pistol shot from the rear. I believed I had made it, and 50 yards further on I was sure when, stumbling into a thoroughfare wakening to the now day, I holed a passing taxi already slowing for this unexpected fare.

I had lost all the contents of my briefcase, my passport, driving licence, etc. and, above all, 10 years of accumulated telephone numbers.

But that was a small emotion compared to the relief and elation of this bizarre working of chance within mischance, so familiar to the inhabitants of this jungle-city. I knew how very lucky I was to be free and — very possibly alive.

Of the region's hairier episodes during the past 15 years for the Guardian. Leaders whom he has inevitably offended recognise in his reports an authority and uncompromising search for truth which is unequalled among Western correspondents.

One exception was the late President Sadat, who went on the Jimmy Young Show to castigate Hirst's despatches. His co-authored biography of Sadat compared him to another Shah. (Hirst has also written The Gun and the Olive Branch — a history of the PLO — and Oil and Public Opinion in the Middle East). He was recently readmitted to Egypt, but remains banned from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and under a cloud in Syria.

Hirst is self-propelled, and his reluctance last week to file a story on his latest escapade was not unexpected. The foreign editor recalls Hirst's remark when asked to explain his non-coverage of so American an ambassador's death in Beirut: "What is one death among so many?"

## The tin miners march into history

ALONG the pot-holed and wind-swept road that runs across the Bolivian Andean plain from the mining town of Oruro to La Paz there are occasional crosses recording victims of traffic accidents. A new memorial due to be placed between the villages of Calamarca and San Antonio, some 40 miles from the capital, will not, however, mark the spot of an individual fatality on the unkept highway. Instead, it will commemorate the point at which, on August 28, a peaceful protest march of 5,000 miners, their families and supporters was broken up at gunpoint by troops and tanks.

Although the leaders of the march were arrested, nobody was killed and there was little resis-

at 9,000 per cent for 1985 but at one stage running at over 15,000 per cent — not only defeated conventional methods of economic management but also engendered an unending series of strikes and threatened a complete collapse of the social order.

Paz's MNR party came to office in August 1985 promising a sober response to the crisis and the re-establishment of national unity. The MNR's election was largely the result of tactical voting against its extreme right-wing opponent General Hugo Banzer, whose dictatorship (1971-78) was one of the fiercest in the country's history and responsible for contracting most of the debt. However, those who had voted for a statesman-like

**As Bolivia suffers economic catastrophe and reverts to authoritarianism, James Dunckerley detects the stirrings of a new social revolt**

once from the exhausted and frightened marchers. The army had denied them food and medical attention for the last two days of their week-long protest against the dismantling of the state mining corporation, Comibol, by the conservative civilian government of Victor Paz Estenssoro. Nonetheless, some of the regime's opponents believe that the events of that Thursday were not just the latest in a string of clashes between miners and troops in Bolivian history but signalled the demise of the tin industry and very possibly that of the country's tenuous return to constitutionalism, begun in 1982 after 18 years of military rule.

Arguing that the march was part of a "subversive plan," for which no concrete evidence was presented, the 79-year-old Paz declared the second state of siege of his year-long government, suspended constitutional guarantees, imposed a curfew, and arrested some 170 union and opposition activists. This reversion to authoritarianism in a perpetually unsettled state was scarcely greeted with surprise abroad.

Moreover, the notable absence of coup rumours — largely because the army is unable to outflank Paz to the right on economic policy or public order issues — combined with the cautious response of a traditionally radical workers' movement were broadly interpreted to confirm the success of civilian conservatism in handling what is without doubt the most severe socio-economic crisis in the western hemisphere.

The Bolivian economy would be in dire straits whoever was in office. Dealt a terrible blow by the collapse of the International Tin Council in October of last year which accelerated the fall in tin prices and made most mines in the world unprofitable (including those in Cornwall), it was already as bankrupt as a sovereign state could be. As commodity prices slumped, the cost of the debt incurred in the heady days of the 1970s rose, and capital reinvestment in mining became a distant dream, the first half of the 1980s were marked by the collapse of the formal productive sector and widespread adoption of survivalist strategies by people well beyond the diminishing industrial labour force. According to the conservative figures released by the Central Bank, between 1980 and 1985 mineral production fell by nearly half, official exports by a third, GDP by 30 per cent and disposable national income by more still.

Indices of malnutrition and infant mortality are now far closer to those of the Shetland of Argentina. Hyperinflation — officially

"middle way" were soon dismayed when, within days of his inauguration, the wily old populist formed an alliance with Banzer, adopted his Harvard-drafted neo-liberal economic programme, and suspended the constitution in order to begin an offensive on a state sector that covered nearly two thirds of the economy.

Inflation was indeed reduced but by the "dominant management" expedient of freezing wages at a time when prices were still rising at over 100 per cent per month so that very few people could afford to buy basic necessities. Unemployment, already at an official level of 20 per cent, escalated further as public enterprises were broken up and production continued to contract.

With a miner's wage at £25 a month and that of a state-employed doctor at £40 (meat costs 75p per pound, an urban bus ride 20p), it is barely surprising that the one-sided "free market" has engendered a massive informal subsistence economy. According to economists Samuel Doria Medina and Rolando Morales this is now worth over \$3 billion — more than the entire formal economy. Its most visible sign is the profusion of street peddling as petty commerce in unrestricted imports replaces production as the principal feature of the urban economy.

However, the largest and most publicised aspect of informal activity is the cocaine trade, worth perhaps \$1 billion and directly or indirectly supporting one tenth of the economically active population. It is an exaggeration to say that in terms of both exports and domestic income Bolivia today depends upon cocaine for its survival. This is tacitly recognised by the regime which, true to its economic principles if not its moral proclamations, allows narcotics to be recycled through the Central Bank without hindrance whilst simultaneously inviting a force of 150 US troops to stage much celebrated raids on cocaine processing plants in the northern provinces.

A product of George Bush's presidential ambitions and inter-departmental rivalry within the US government, this noisy "collaborative operation" (ex US helicopters and one Bolivian) has signally failed to decapitate the cocaine industry. After six weeks, Colonel John Taylor's troops had located seven deserted camps of the 88 listed for destruction by the DEA, captured one gram of chlorhydrate, and detained one firm suspect — a 17-year-old passenger in a captured smuggler's aircraft whose pilot nimbly ascended into the jungle. Yet this showcase operation has succeeded



The miners protest.

to reducing the price of the (legal) cocaine cultivated by thousands of peasants from \$125 to \$25 a bale, as well as raising fears of a future use of defoliants.

The field-day being enjoyed by the proponents of neo-liberalism may be coming to a precipitate end. The dismantling of Comibol, immediate firing of 8,000 of its 20,000 workers, and imminent closure of schools and clinics provided by the corporation was designed both to offer the richest pickings to private capital and to destroy the miners' union. However, the "march for life" hailed at Calamarca aroused considerable sympathy in the peasantry, which broke from sowing to applaud in unexpectedly large numbers at the roadside, as well as a middle class that is normally terrified by the miners' propensity for exploding dynamite or boisterous radical meetings.

Loss of support in these two key areas of the government's constituency has been underlined by opposition from the conservative Church hierarchy and local civic associations. Moreover, the regime must now contend with broad sympathy to new ends and property taxes specifically designed by Price Waterhouse to pay off an unpopular foreign debt. So depleted is national income that extraliquid pressure is far more likely to engender resistance than revenue.

Many campesinos believe the property tax to be a ruse to deprive them of lands, and the atmosphere in the countryside is sufficiently tense that people travelling to rural communities often ask for credentials that show they are not working for the government.

Even inside the MNR and the US Embassy there are those concerned at the train of events in spite of the recent release of political prisoners and renewal of talks. On the day Comibol's closure was announced, 900 miners left the camps in search of work in lowlands. They have quit the union, and according to conventional wisdom are now outside the formal political exchange between right and leftwing organisations. Yet they have joined a rapidly expanding mass of angry and impoverished subsistence labourers for whom direct and perhaps violent action increasingly seems a viable option compared with futile bargaining within formally democratic structures. The orthodox Left is in retreat, and rumours of a coup are at a low ebb, but those of the influence of Sendero Luminoso growing across the border in Peru are noticeably more common than a year ago.

James Dunckerley teaches politics at Queen Mary College, University of London.

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## COMMENT

## What if the arms race really stops?

THERE could be an earthquake in the making. A Soviet-American accord in Washington during the autumn on intermediate-range missiles in Europe is now, suddenly, a strong possibility. Obviously it would impinge heavily on the British parties' defence policies, which is at least one reason, given Britain's crucial position in Nato, for the US to pursue it with some vigour. On the Soviet side the initial placing of medium-range missiles in Europe has always been an act of escalation which they have been embarrassed to defend, and their efforts to prevent the West from matching the systems they installed have met with failure. For Nato itself, acting collectively in Brussels, the old doctrine of ensuring that the US remains immediately linked to European defence has still to be satisfied, which is why, under the terms now being discussed, a reduced number of warheads (the likely total is thought to be 100) would remain on both sides. Militarily far fewer than that, or none at all, would preserve the balance, but they would not meet Nato's 1979 linkage requirements. One hundred warheads on each side still make a formidable array, and it is only the existence of 100 times as many as that in each of the superpowers' own strategic arsenals which makes so inflated a figure seem acceptable. Nonetheless, this would be both a striking political agreement and the first actual cut in nuclear weaponry since build-up began.

Mr Gorbachev has made it clear that he is not going to the United States without an arms control agreement in the bag. That cannot possibly be achieved at intercontinental level in the time available. In dropping all demands relating to the British and French systems, including apparently a

bann on the transfer of Trident technology from the US to Britain, he has simplified yet further what was essentially already a simple deal. If there is still an argument about how the Western missile force should be balanced between the cruise missiles in Britain and elsewhere and the Pershing ballistic missiles in Germany (which the Russians dislike most) it is elementary compared with the negotiation on strategic sub-systems which remains to be done in Geneva. Even so, it is hard to believe that Soviet interest in the huge uprating of the British deterrent which Trident would entail has disappeared for all time. Perhaps it will be raised again in the Geneva strategic context. Perhaps SS-20s will come trundling back if or when Trident becomes operational. In the meanwhile, though, if the terms outlined on page 7 approximate to an agreement, Mrs Thatcher can say with every superficial justification that her Trident programme is not holding up a European arms deal.

Where, then, does this leave the Opposition, and perhaps more specifically the Labour Party? How do Casper Weinberger's dire forebodings about the break-up of the Nato alliance if Britain goes non-nuclear square with his own government's intention to do part of what Labour requires and disarm in Europe? For if the outlines are correct it seems that the Russians are not much concerned whether Britain unilaterally disarms or not (why should they be, given the huge disparity of forces?) and the argument that Britain would be contributing to a significantly lower nuclear arms total in Europe falls away. If the Russians have more than 200 three-warheaded SS-20s west of the Urals, and the existing American programme accounts for 572

warheads pointing the other way, and if these totals are both reduced substantially, Britain's 84-missile deterrent, deadly though it is in absolute terms, is a matter of relatively small moment about which the Kremlin does not propose to agitate itself. The deal as outlined does not destroy the CND argument about the basic immorality of all nuclear weapons and therefore of Britain's possession of them. But it does make it harder for a future British government to embark on a course which, at the least, would lead to the Nato Alliance being recast when the material rewards in terms of East-West stability would be so palpably small.

The deal is not yet signed and its full contents are not known. What is apparent is that for the time being the arms controllers in Washington have inched ahead of the cold warriors, and that position, though it may be temporary, could not have been foreseen. It is also evident that Gorbachev is interested more in the actuality of East-West coexistence than in the nuclear theorising which lies behind it and which so heavily preoccupied his immediate predecessors. This conjunction may mean that it is not a good time for the lesser members of Nato to complicate matters by revising their nuclear strengths either drastically upwards or drastically downwards. Mr Weinberger may have done himself more harm than good when he addressed the nation, and Mr Perle may be no more (though we doubt it) than the middle-ranking pipsqueak characteristically so described by Mr Healey. It is easier, though, to pass over their interventions at a time when the Nitz school of arms control seems on the verge of getting results: when the earth, and much else, may be moving.

The North Sea oil bonanza was nature's gift to Mrs Thatcher. In 1978, Government oil revenues were only £238 million (in the financial year). They built up very strongly to a peak of £12 billion in 1984-85, before falling back to £1.4 billion in the last financial year and a forecast £6.1 billion in 1986-87. The oil won't disappear overnight. But production will steadily fall and unless prices recover their former strength, the North Sea's contribution will gradually erode.

And what, pray, is there to show for it? Since 1979 the annual growth in the economy has been barely 1.25 per cent a year. Manufacturing investment is still over 17 per cent below what it was then. There has been a consumer boom, to be sure; but that has disproportionately fed the factories of our competitors. Output of consumer goods is still, bizarrely, four per cent below what it was then. Britain, true enough, has recycled much of the oil revenues abroad. We now have net assets abroad of nearly £80 billion, of which part is oil money. That is no bad thing when great nations like the United States are sinking into debt. But where else are the fruits of the North Sea? In dilapidated infrastructure? In deprived schools? In depressed housing? In deteriorating industry? Or in 3 to 4 million unemployed? And worst of all, if all this has been happening during a once-and-for-all period of balance of payments surpluses (and claimed economic recovery) what on earth is going to happen when Britain sinks once more back into institutionalised trade deficits? It is difficult to believe that historians will look back on this period as the halcyon years. But, then we don't know what the next 10 years have in store.

Unless America is to be forced into a destabilising recession (with all that that implies for the rest of the world in terms of reduced exports) then the stronger economies must take up the task of injecting demand into the world which the US has been doing almost singlehandedly. West Germany can no longer plead fear of inflation as reason for not expanding because the annual rate of inflation is actually negative and going down. Will it still be quoting inflation when prices are going down by five per cent? Nor can Japan plead caution when it is not only facing negative inflation (any month now) but also sporting a surplus of \$68 billion (£48 billion) on its trade with the rest of the world. What is the spirit of the IMF all about if not to take action when trade balances (or deficits) get too high?

President Botha's indecision about an election, writes Stanley Uys, is typical of the current confusion in his party

an election, restore some unity to his divided party, and then quit while the going is good.

If he calls a general election, it will be with the aim of reunifying his party, arresting the growth of the New Right, and signalling to the world that white South Africans are solidly behind him in their resistance to sanctions.

In all three of his aims Botha probably would have some success. The faction forming that has been taking place in his party would have to be suspended, or the culprit would be guilty of national betrayal; some brake would be put on the growth of the New Right; and the world would get the message that on sanctions South Africans, or at least most white South Africans, have formed a united front.

Botha's National Party has just won a parliamentary by-election at Klip River in Natal where the other candidates was a right-wing HNP man, supported by the right-wing Conservative Party.

Opinion polls also show that NP support has climbed from 47 per cent in April to 52 per cent in September, and that the HNP-CP and Progressive Federal Party (the liberal official Opposition) are level pegging at about 18 per cent each. It is quite likely that in a three-cornered contest, many English-speaking PFP supporters would vote for the NP candidate to keep out the greater demon of the New Right. For the time being the sanctions issue is a winner.

The whole idea, however, of holding an election now shows how desperate Botha has become. The last white election was in 1981 and his five-year mandate expired this year; but elections were held in 1984 for the new Coloured and

## August a bad month for trade

WE haven't heard much about trade deficits lately. They were a national obsession in the 1980s and early seventies, but the discovery of North Sea oil put paid to all that. Or so we thought. But the record deficit of £866 million on the August current account (trade in goods and services) is a sobering reminder that Britain's experience of surpluses may have been a brief sojourn before normal service is grimly resumed. There were, to be sure, special factors in August. But the figures are suggesting that the party may soon be over. The cumulative surplus in the first eight months of the year is now a slender £68 million. This makes the Government's Budget forecast of £3 billion surplus for the year highly unlikely. Worse, it makes the National Institute's prediction of a £5.8 billion deficit in 1987 less far fetched than it may have seemed last month.

In the three months to August it was the old, familiar tale again. The volume of exports (excluding oil) was up by a creditable 2.4 per cent. But import volume (again, excluding oil) shot up by 6 per cent. With oil (thanks to falling prices) no longer able to bridge the gap, the current account took the strain.

The North Sea oil bonanza was nature's gift to Mrs Thatcher. In 1978, Government oil revenues were only £238 million (in the financial year). They built up very strongly to a peak of £12 billion in 1984-85, before falling back to £1.4 billion in the last financial year and a forecast £6.1 billion in 1986-87. The oil won't disappear overnight. But production will steadily fall and unless prices recover their former strength, the North Sea's contribution will gradually erode.

And what, pray, is there to show for it? Since 1979 the annual growth in the economy has been barely 1.25 per cent a year. Manufacturing investment is still over 17 per cent below what it was then. There has been a consumer boom, to be sure; but that has disproportionately fed the factories of our competitors. Output of consumer goods is still, bizarrely, four per cent below what it was then. Britain, true enough, has recycled much of the oil revenues abroad. We now have net assets abroad of nearly £80 billion, of which part is oil money. That is no bad thing when great nations like the United States are sinking into debt. But where else are the fruits of the North Sea? In dilapidated infrastructure? In deprived schools? In depressed housing? In deteriorating industry? Or in 3 to 4 million unemployed? And worst of all, if all this has been happening during a once-and-for-all period of balance of payments surpluses (and claimed economic recovery) what on earth is going to happen when Britain sinks once more back into institutionalised trade deficits? It is difficult to believe that historians will look back on this period as the halcyon years. But, then we don't know what the next 10 years have in store.

## Le Monde

ENGLISH SECTION

## The bishop and Abdallah

The French authorities seem in doubt over what line to take over the recent activities of Syrian-born Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the former Greek-Catholic prelate of Jerusalem. The archbishop met Minister of Public Security Robert Pandraud twice, both before and after a long meeting with Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the presumed leader of the FARL (Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Front) whose release is being sought by the terrorist group or

groups responsible for the recent wave of bombings in Paris. Archbishop Capucci has said publicly that he was carrying out a mission. While sources at the Elysée have expressed surprise at the "exceptional facilities" given to the prelate, government spokesmen have denied that any kind of negotiation is in the air. Justice Minister Aïdin Chalandon expressed the hope that Abdallah would be brought to trial next February.

THOUGH it is not certain that Georges Ibrahim Abdallah will be tried as early as February, as the Justice Minister hopes, one thing is sure: the government does not want to hear any more talk about making deals. This had to be made clear after the shilly-shallying in July and what Socialist Party First Secretary Lionel Jospin described as Archbishop Capucci's "extravagant visit" to Abdallah in his Santé prison cell.

A "visit" not appreciated by the Elysée; it led to speculation that a deal might be in the offing and this the justice minister has tried to dispel. Archbishop Capucci does not consider however that he is on a "visit", but on a "mission" and believes that "negotiations" are under way.

The message Chalandon delivered was intended to show firmness. It was meant, he explained, to clear up "the poisonous atmosphere surrounding this case." You could have legitimately been mistaken. Justice has not always shown the determination that he disclosed that he had ordered the public prosecutor to ensure Abdallah is sent to trial. On the other hand, during the summer it was learned from a reliable source that the Paris prosecutor's office had been asked to examine under what conditions it might be ruled that Georges Ibrahim Abdallah had no case to answer.

That prospect became so real that the United States filed an application, through its lawyer Georges Kijman, to be associated with the public prosecutor's case so as to try to prevent a non-suit being declared.

Today, insisted Chalandon, the government had ruled out any idea of dropping the case. The public prosecutor, who is directly answerable to the Justice Minister, will do all in his power to see this does not happen. What is more, Chalandon has given the courts a tight schedule for bringing Abdallah to trial that it will doubtless not be followed: one month for winding up the legal investigation, plus the maximum of two months that the penal code gives to the court to hand down its decision.

Apart from the fact that the Justice Minister does not have the right — as was pointed out on Friday by Abdallah's lawyer Jacques Vergès — to impose time limits on the investigating magistrate, the latter will not so far as we know be able to complete his work in the coming month. The investigating magistrate in the case, Orlines Bouloque, is awaiting the findings of experts and other details. At least two months will be needed to prepare the brief, say Paris courthouse sources.

On the other hand, the two lawyers — Kijman and Vergès — can step in to ask for explanations on any contentious issue. It is to the interests of Abdallah's lawyer, in particular, to delay proceedings. The code in fact allows him to do

that: he can ask for expert reports and second opinions. Bouloque could refuse permission, but such a refusal could be submitted by Abdallah's lawyer to the presiding judge of the court of criminal appeal.

While it cannot be taken for granted that Vergès will take advantage of the undramatic possibilities offered by the code of criminal procedure, it is quite obvious it is not in his interest to have his client rushed to court for a jury trial. Still reeling from the shock of the recent bombings, a jury would certainly give no quarter.

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah is accused of involvement in the 1982

By Bertrand Le Gendre

murders in Paris of two diplomats — the Israeli Yacov Barsimantov and the American Charles Ray. While he has been questioned in his cell by the police concerning the recent attacks which have left nine dead and over 150 injured, it is not for this that he will be tried. But the wave of attacks will heavily influence a jury's decision. And this is particularly true as Abdallah, unlike Anie Nesceshe whose release is also demanded by the bombers, refuses to condemn the attacks.

If he faces a jury trial, Abdallah is likely to be gaoled for life. Even if he is given one or several longer terms of imprisonment, he could not in that case be eligible for parole, except in the event — highly improbable in the present circumstances — of a presidential pardon.

Chalandon's statement needs to be assessed in the light of this. If Bouloque and the court of criminal appeal carry out the minister's wishes, then it will be a possibility of a deal. Sentencing Abdallah might also at the same time set off a new wave of bombings. Chalandon evidently weighed that risk when he spoke up.

Yet Abdallah does have a defence. It is not just Vergès who says so, while pointing out triumphantly that nothing has happened since July to strengthen the case. Others who have been able to examine it carefully and objectively agree.

The charge of involvement in an assassination is based on the discovery of an automatic pistol in one of Abdallah's Paris hideouts: a pistol which was used to kill the two diplomats. This is both much and too little as far as legal proof is concerned.

To cut short the details, it must be known that an "accomplice" can be convicted only if he is shown to have "taken part in the action or given instructions for carrying it out." Or if "he procured the weapons or any other means that helped in the action knowing it was to be used in it." Or again if he helped "the principal author in preparing, and carrying out" the crime.

In the present state of the case, nothing of the sort can be held

against Abdallah. On Friday, the Justice Ministry was reduced to shifting the debate to another ground, that of common sense: "He does not deny his role in the FARL. Now the FARL claimed responsibility for the assassinations of the two diplomats. So Abdallah is involved in these assassinations." The only point is that such a presentation is legally speaking not very sound. Lawyer Vergès will certainly not fail to point it out.

The fact is the low blundered early in July at Abdallah's first trial in Lyons, and it is very difficult to repair the damage today. Information highly damaging to him had been collected on facts which cannot be reintroduced in court now. This is laid down in legal procedure, and the blunder will weigh heavily at the jury trial.

At Lyons Abdallah faced ten years in goal. The prosecutor's office, which Chalandon now wants to show firmness, asked for and got four. This blunder will have to be remembered if Vergès succeeds, as well he might, in getting the court to give his client a minimum sentence or even — contrary to the justice minister's wishes — to rule he had no case to answer.

(September 28/29)

## Lebanese fear loss of French connection

EAST BEIRUT — This is a land where you can count on the unexpected, where the impossible is probable and the improbable certain. Here are Lebanese Christians who are now expressing their fears of — France. They are used to car bombs that can always blow up when children are on their way to school, stray shells and bad news which slowly arrive to dampen good spirits when things seem to be taking a slight turn for the better. This gallery of adversaries, Shi'ite, Palestinian and Druze militants, and terrorists here and everywhere has now been swelled by a worrying pair — Pasqua and Pandraud.

Rumours are rife here: they are frisking Lebanese travellers and going through their luggage with a fine-tooth comb. The Interior Ministry is preparing "measures". The French sanctuary is going to be sealed off. "France, monsieur," signed a doctor who has more than shown he is not afraid of bullets, "is our hinterland. Even if we have no intention of going there, we know it's there and that its doors are open to us. So if it shuts its doors . . ."

"Don't the rear holds out," World War I French soldiers used to say half jokingly, half seriously. This is in Lebanon minds now. When they know you're from Paris, in every conversation someone will say, not very convincingly: "You're not going to abandon us, are you?" Or someone will express the pious hope: "Chirac has solid nerve, at least?" For in this country where it is not spillovers that are fired at officers, gloating goes down very

badly. If the Lebanese felt like it, they would laugh out of court Charles Pasqua's promise to "terrorise the terrorists". As for violating "ruthless punishment on the assassins and those who are manipulating them", as Prime Minister Chirac vowed . . .

The distress is genuine. The reason for it is that right out of ten of the 70,000 French Lebanese are Christians — the rest are Muslims — moreover beginning to join them in appreciable numbers. This overseas community is generating a constant supply of travellers, a

By Paul-Jean Franceschini

perpetual coming and going; a volume of visas so substantial that the French embassy in Beirut has — with some difficulty — got Paris to extend the validity of visas for two years so as to reduce the incessant applications for renewal.

There are fears about everything: residence permits, visits to children, harassment, the bad reputation clinging to the Lebanese passport. Travel, already costly and not very easy, is likely to become more difficult still. The plummeting Lebanese pound is putting stress abroad out of reach for those who do not have incomes in foreign currency.

And then, even without wanting to pluck the sentimental chord which goes down so well in the Orient, the Lebanese have been truly affected, grieved and in some cases stunned by the wave of terrorism which has struck us. The very evening that Colonel Gouttière was assassinated, the

Continued on page 19

## Tension in Togo

MANY heads of states in Africa tend to say nothing and accuse the foreign press of "exaggerating" when assailed by problems at home or abroad. This is not true of General Gnassingbé Eyadema of Togo who, like the good soldier he is, personally took part in hunting down the commando unit that sneaked into the country on the night of September 23/24 to attack the military camp where he was staying. In fact on the morning of September 24, the Togolese embassy in Paris drew the media's attention to this event, while the general received the diplomatic corps posted in Lomé to explain what had happened. Togo considers it has been the victim of a foreign plot and intends to let the world know it.

The ambassadors were shown an entire arsenal of Soviet-made weapons. Eyadema assured them Togo was a "peaceful country" and would "simply defend itself", but he did not name the aggressor. Official Togolese sources, however, explained that among the seven killed were two Ouhangian NCOs. Lomé remained calm and links with the outside world were never cut off, but the border with its English-speaking neighbour, Ghana, was closed. Accra accused the Togolese army of having "fired indiscriminately on (Ghanaian) border guards conducting an anti-smuggling operation".

Once again a running quarrel has broken out between "progressive" Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings and pro-Western General Eyadema, who has embarked on a non-nonsense economic policy with the International Monetary Fund's approval. There have been countless charges and counter-charges and border incidents against a backdrop of tribal hatreds and ideological bickering. This border, fixed when the former German colony of Togo was carved up at the end of World War I (a third went to the former British Gold

Coast, and two thirds to French Togo) allows smuggling and infiltration to continue. The border is quite real in Lomé, where it deprives the Togolese capital of a part of its suburban districts, but becomes blurred as soon as it reaches the rural areas.

The Ewés, who live in the south of the country, have not forgiven General Eyadema for the death of former President Sylvanus Olympio in the January 1987 putsch organised by young officers from the north who brought Eyadema to power. Olympio's family, which has its supporters abroad, took refuge in Ghana and is still seeking to avenge what it describes as an assassination. This time substantial resources were deployed by the attackers. Six civilians, including a West German national, were killed in the fighting.

But Lomé is currently also experiencing an insidious terrorism. Last year several explosions caused casualties. The first bomb went off in August 1985 a few days before Pope John Paul II's visit. The latest attack came before a summit meeting of French-speaking countries due to be held in November in Lomé, as if Eyadema's enemies were still trying to damage, at just the right time, the reputation he is trying to give Togo as an "African Switzerland".

Every one of the attempts to destabilise the country was followed by ruthless repression, which leads his exiled opponents to say they are simply "provocative acts" engineered by the government to get rid of its opponents. Since the Togolese President is colluding on friendly acts against his country, he would be well advised not to lay himself open to criticism by new violations of human rights in his search for accomplices in the country.

(September 28)

French ambassador was invited to dine in town — to show he was not going to be intimidated, that he would not be cancelling appointments. It was a strange and unforgettable scene: gentlemen in ties and ladies in ceremonial attire watching from the broad 7th floor terrace of the Achrafieh the bodyguards moving about the bullet-proof vehicles.

The ambassador could not quite hide his emotion but went about his task of reassuring the guests about his and his country's resolve. "I've had some shattering news," he told us, and his eyes clouded over for reasons unconnected with the diplomatic proprieties.

For these Christian Lebanese love France in an old-fashioned sort of way which may make one smile, but the fact is there. They cannot bear the thought of seeing France plunged in grief, anxious and weak. They hardly believe it could resist the blackmail for long — and they say it with a sort of indulgence that is touching. The day before that Saturday, where for the first time half of East Beirut was paralysed by a "black-kick-and-sneeze strike" (for the assassinated French military attaché), housewives went about stocking up supplies and car owners filled up their tanks. Nobody for a moment thought the strike in support of Paris might fizzle out.

The Lebanese hold much the same views as to who is responsible for the terrorism. Iran and Syria are pointed out, but people are asking questions about their cooperation. The more reasoned



## France and the Middle East — honesty is the best policy

DOES FRANCE still have the will and the means for pursuing a Middle East policy? Should it even continue to have one?

Provocative questions, but highly relevant ones even if they have been studiously avoided by politicians both of the ruling majority and the Opposition. It takes real determination, however, to spot only a few trees and not see the obvious forest. France is at war not only with four or five brothers and their cousins in neighbouring villages. True, the Kobayat clan is by no means as innocent as it claims to be, but it is only the viable tip of a convergent alliance of interests and conflicting passions whose ultimate goal is to eliminate all Western influence in the region.

Can France still stand up to these forces which are in full expansion? Is it prepared for it? Would the venture make any sense?

Things have unmistakably got off to a bad start. True, the opponents of French influence in the Middle East have taken the risk of triggering a national reflex of unity by carrying terrorism into France. But their perception of our country prompts them to believe this will doubtless be no more than a passing phase. A few more atrocities, they tell themselves, and the line resolutions emerging in the latest opinion polls will flout out. Isolationism is not an exclusively North American reaction. And particularly as it is neither on easy nor obvious thing to explain to people why France should go on maintaining its presence in a turbulent region when bombs are exploding at home.

Apart from Jean-Marie Le Pen's hard right Front National, all of France's political parties have joined in backing the massacre taken by the government of Jacques Chirac to combat terrorism. First Secretary Lionel Jospin pointed out that the government was "lucky to have the benefit of a very responsible Opposition, which we did not have." Socialists, however, increasingly wonder about the connection between what Jospin describes as Chirac's "hesitant" policy in the Middle East and the recent terrorist blitz in Paris. Other leading members of the ruling majority keep saying that France's position has been made difficult by the commitment the previous Socialist government made during the negotiations which helped to obtain the release in April 1985 of the French diplomat Gilles Peyrolas after he was kidnapped in Lebanon. Allegations that the Socialists had done a deal were denied by former foreign minister Roland Dumas.

Besides, hasn't the retreat already sounded? Face was only barely saved in 1983 in the case of the intervention force following the Drakkar bombing. True, the United States made the first move by pulling out.

Since then, the adversary has not stopped scoring points. Three months ago Paris was forced to evacuate diplomats, teachers and doctors from West Beirut so as not to offer too many French nationals as hostages. A few days ago, French military observers were withdrawn from the divided capital. From being arbiters, they had become targets. Soon, it will be the turn of the French contingent in UNIFIL to pull out, unless it is decided to make them live underground, that is condemn them to a role that serves no useful purpose. Our representatives are not even safe in East Beirut since our military attaché was assassinated.

At this rate, what will be left of the French presence in Lebanon? Not much, certainly. Perhaps a few of those cultural centres and educational establishments amidst

the beleaguered Maronites which in 1884 Syrian President Hafez al-Assad told François Mitterrand he was prepared to tolerate when the French head of state, forgetting rather too quickly the assassination of Ambassador Louis Delamare, lauded him on his non-support of terrorism. But wouldn't even this be too much for Shia extremists for whom the only acceptable republic is an Islamic one?

By Jacques Amaric

Given this disastrous situation, how important are a few terrorists held in our prisons? Should they continue to be held if the West has been irrevocably rejected over there? We will shortly have to expect to hear such assertions in the form of questions. They were already being heard not so long ago among Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's aides before any blood was spilt in Paris.

There was in fact nothing very surprising about that. Apart from that old French contradiction — it goes back at least to Voltaire, Clarendon or Estienne — of claiming to

have a historic role in the Middle East while simultaneously giving in to the temptation of negotiating and coming to terms with terrorism. The terrorists quickly realised the advantage they could draw from it. And when the French "sanctuary" was denied them, they first seized French hostages in Lebanon before deciding that every Parisian was a potential hostage.

The trap is all the more fiendish as the adversary never reveals his identity. So the jockeying goes on to display the most grief over the victims, even if this means having to defer to the public wrath and will. This is clearly noticeable in the long drawn-out normalisation of our relations with Iran which was initiated under the previous government and is being doggedly pursued under Chirac's administration. The whole thing reeks of what can only be described as hypocrisy: you begin to wonder whether the real aim of the Iranian and their accomplices is not simply to humiliate France.

Be that as it may, the fact is

Syria and Iran will have soon obtained their goals in Lebanon insofar as France is concerned. The two countries will doubtless then fall out considering how far apart their respective plans for Lebanon are. At any rate Iran will have one more task to complete — put an end to France's policy towards Iraq.

We may today cavil about the validity of this policy to which Chirac made no small contribution when it was forged. We can — and should — ask questions about the flaws of President Saddam Hussein's regime. Nevertheless, the fact is that in its potential consequences the Iran-Iraq war far outweighs the Arab-Israeli conflict. If Iran wins, then the entire balance of power in the region will be altered.

What will France's response to this new challenge be, especially if it is backed up by further seizures of hostages, by new acts of terrorism? Do our leaders seriously think that France, which is one of Iraq's biggest suppliers of arms, will be spared for a long time by a regime whose messianism is threatening to engulf the region? Obviously, it is not our timid proposals to hold an international "forum" on the Middle East nor our guarded restatements of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination which will suffice to pacify people who do not accept the existence of Israel.

The worst is perhaps still to come. And if we want to prepare the public to stand up to it, it is better not to hesitate to tell them the truth.

(September 25)

## Damascus angered by anti-Syrian media campaign

DAMASCUS — "We're deeply distressed by the attitude of some French media which are trying to establish a link between the terrorist attacks in Paris and Syria," said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Charr. Solemn and determined to be convincing on a subject on which he had clearly set his heart, the minister did not mince any words in hitting back at the current "anti-Syrian campaign" in which Syria is accused of being behind the recent wave of terrorist attacks in Paris. "The only explanation for it," he told me, "is that there are a few groups determined to damage the friendly and trusting relations now existing between Paris and Damascus."

"For the first time there is a sort of political consensus in Paris in favour of maintaining the good

relations which have been built up since President Mitterrand's visit to Damascus in 1984. M Chirac encouraged and expanded these relations so they may become even more constructive and friendly. This is inconvenient for all those who would like to give the Arabs, and Syria in particular, a negative image in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

As proof of this Charr pointed to the fact that Syrian condemnations of terrorism do not receive the publicity he said they deserve. He pointed out that Syria's very strong condemnation of the assassination of the French military attaché in Beirut and the attacks on UNIFIL soldiers were not given wide publicity in France. "We're not in the habit of putting out communiqués at the drop of a hat," he said. "Now we condemned this

By Françoise Chippaux

attack very firmly an hour after we heard about it. I think ours was the only country in the world to have published such a communiqué."

While protesting frequently that he wanted to say nothing that would in any way affect French-Syrian relations, Charr implicitly criticised the action of the French police: "We have no intention of telling the French government what to do. We don't have the right to do that, but it is in its interest to examine the context and discover the identity of the real terrorists, instead of giving credence to assumptions and phone calls claiming responsibility that anyone can make."

The Syrians are clearly sceptical about the Abdallah news and are suggesting that the news conference given by Maurice Ibrahim Abdallah and his brother Ibrahim Ibrahim Abdallah should be sufficient proof to absolve them of direct involvement in the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Pointing out that Syria itself has been the victim of "criminal terrorist actions" — recent bomb explosions in buses have killed 160 and injured another 160 or more persons — Charr said: "Syria knows from experience what terrorism is. When we were victims, as France is today, we received messages claiming responsibility, but we never took them seriously. We asked no country to publish communications condemning these acts. We endeavoured to find an answer to the one question that mattered — who stood to gain by such acts? The important thing is to discover the real terrorists, not to indulge in speculation."

Charr agreed that the recent attacks against French soldiers in UNIFIL were not Israel's work. But, he said: "We are convinced the Hezbollah will change their attitude if UNIFIL is deployed along the border. What they say today is that UNIFIL in fact is ensuring Israel's security against the Lebanese national resistance and that they have a right to resist the occupation right up to the international border. In any case, our position is clear: we are against the attacks fomented against UNIFIL and we agree with Mr Perez da Cuellar's report which accused Israel of responsibility for the tension in southern Lebanon."

"I ask again, who stands to gain from committing terrorist acts against UNIFIL and French civilians in Paris? Syria is just as serious in its struggle against terrorism as it is in its support of the national resistance. This is

why we don't want to be bracketed with terrorism; this is also why we have done everything possible in Lebanon to have the hostages freed. We have had successes in a few cases and setbacks in others."

What were the reasons for the setbacks? "The situation in Lebanon is confused and highly involved," said Charr. "It's not easy to come up with results, when even in an organised country like France you are having problems finding the real terrorists. True, our president has said Syria has influence and a presence in Lebanon. But Syria does not govern Lebanon."

Pressed to say whether he thought Iron was not working against Syria in Lebanon, Charr would only say it was Israel, by its refusal to withdraw from southern Lebanon, and "its extremist agents trying to set up a Christian state who have ennobled the extremists on the other side."

Considering that terrorist acts could also be the work of groups not always subject to governmental control, Charr went back to the charges made in Paris against his country. He conceded that, notwithstanding Syria's wish to maintain "solid relations with Paris, if the anti-Syrian campaign continued, it could affect relations between the two countries. We are convinced this campaign couldn't possibly continue without the complicity of certain services in the French government. If it continues, we could conclude that, despite a free press, the French government is letting things take their own course for reasons of its own. We ask to be treated the way ordinary offenders are treated under French law: a suspect is presumed to be innocent. If proof of guilt exists, let it be shown to us, not, let there be no more of these serious charges."

(September 24)

## Despite public apathy privatisation is a major break with the past

THE PRIVATISATION of nationalised industries is evolving little interest among the French public. Except in one case — the television channel TF1 — the general feeling is that "it will change nothing."

A change of stockholders is, however, never without having an effect. And, especially, when it is a change from collective to private ownership of capital the switch becomes a real break. The "employer-state" can apparently be quite different because of its other political and economic functions. The stakes involved in the current privatisations are therefore considerable.

The first reason stems from the vast scale of the government programme: 65 enterprises, which happen to be the most powerful in their sector, to be privatised over a period of five years. From the Compagnie Générale de l'Électricité (CGE) to Bull, from the Crédit Lyonnais to Paribas, from the Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP) to the Mutuelles de Mans, they are all big names in French industry, banking and insurance. The deal should involve a sum of about 400 billion a year, compared with the 650 billion in stock issued on the Bourse (Paris stock exchange) in 1985 (the figure is expected to reach 800 billion this year). British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatisation list was only a third as long. Which goes to show how ambitious, the present government is.

The second reason runs deeper. If the government is to be believed, France is being pursued in various degrees in most developed countries and in some developing countries, such as Brazil. It may be

invited since — and even before — the war, and bring French capital into line with international, say American-style, standards. Postwar reconstruction called for a Keynesian policy of public ownership. De Gaulle himself nationalised Renault, gas and electricity and a part of credit. Having proved its worth by giving the country 30 years of "glorious" growth, the policy has now become a straitjacket.

Denationalisation, together with lower taxes and a degree of deregulation in the areas of prices, currency exchange and competition — the whole forming the three parts of the government's liberal policy — should lead to less government which in turn will quicken initiative and encourage growth. That is the goal.

The privatisations are a part of a package of measures inspired by the "liberal revolution". The plan is to make sweeping modifications to a whole range of mechanisms in the French economy which are thought to be damaging to it and ultimately responsible for the crisis.

Privatisation in particular should provide an opportunity for giving enterprises a free hand in their social, monetary and industrial policies. The appointment by the businesses, political directives aimed at leading off-limits and refusing to allow an industry to relocate or join up with another — practices that confuse and distort market forces — should in theory disappear with the state withdrawal from the marketplace.

It is not a policy peculiar to France. It is being pursued in various degrees in most developed countries and in some developing countries, such as Brazil. It may be

regarded as an ideological victory of liberalism. This is doubtless right, but you cannot help noticing that the moment is historically opportune. Unenterprising and overcautious and attracted by investment in real estate, those who had capital held on to it in the early '70s while the investing was done by the nationalised industries. Which accounted for the nationalisations.

Since then governments have all

by Eric Le Bouchard

been pursuing austerity policies which prevent them from properly fulfilling their duties as stockholders. In contrast to this, all the financial markets have been helped by an upward movement whose origins are varied, but it draws attention to the means of privately held capital in search of investment opportunities. Besides, the French Socialists themselves took the measure of this when they put "stocks" of publicly owned

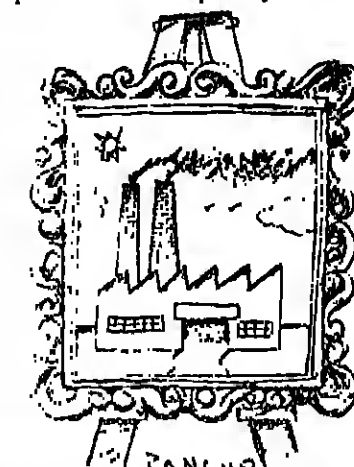


Illustration by Pancho.

enterprises on the Bourse beginning in 1983. Private capital in turn came to prop up public capital which was often insufficient, and even unavailable.

Once inevitable, not to say necessary, from that moment, privatisation stopped being resisted by employees, trade unions and the Socialists, except for firms' sake. A consensus was established, leaving out only the Communists.

There remains the question of judging the pace of privatisation. The difficulty here is to make sure that the withdrawal of public supervision will in fact help industry and the French economy, in short, to make sure that less government will mean more market forces. Now, contrary to the liberals' theoretical ideas, the connection is far from automatic in the reality of things, especially in France and for three reasons.

The first has to do with French capitalism, whose features are linked to a family pact which

have not all disappeared. Going back to such self-regulatory practices in business run by capitalists not having the capital they possessed in the '70s is therefore very risky.

The second arises from the delay in restructuring industries. It is only now that banks are becoming involved in the modernisation process. Industrial firms have not yet, on an average, reached profit levels comparable with those of their foreign competitors. So the risks involved are many. Will such companies become targets for foreign takeover bids as President Mitterrand and Raymond Barre have pointed out? On the other hand, will enterprises earmarked for privatisation but are still in state hands be able to count on government support for carrying out takeovers inside or outside France?

The final reason has to do with the "specialisation" of the French economy. Apart from the odd case, its strong points happen to be in areas where there is very heavy government intervention — armaments, telecommunications, nuclear industry.

Making a clean break with "mixed" capitalism without weakening the productive fabric becomes very difficult in such conditions. If the government does not think its withdrawal from capital with a new policy on the lines of what is being done in the United States, offering tax incentives to investors, defining major research goals like the SBI, helping to create new businesses and supporting their growth, that is, if it does not also promote more market forces, then less government will not be enough.

(September 23)

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ALAIN RESNAIS' latest film, "Melo", which was shown at this year's Venice Film Festival and released in France on September 3, is based on a play by the little-known French playwright, Henry Bernstein. First staged in 1929 at the Théâtre de Gymnase in Paris, with a cast that included Gaby Morlay, Charles Boyer and Pierre Blanchard, "Melo" is typical, with its elegant turns of phrase and high society badinage, of the so-called "boulevard" theatre of the period. But behind the glitter there is a cutting edge, and behind the apparent anachronism a great modernity of emotions.

The characters form the usual triangle: Romaine, known as Manicha, a petite,

attractive and rather boring woman who is married to a second-rate pianist, falls madly in love with Marcel, a brilliant violinist who attended the Paris Conservatoire at the same time as Pierre. Blinded by passion, Manicha tries to poison her husband. But she cannot bring herself either to carry through or to admit to such an appalling crime. She prefers suicide.

Broken-hearted, Pierre keeps faith in her until, three years later, he is suddenly wracked by doubts and suspicions. He begs his friend to tell him exactly what kind of relationship he had with Manicha, but Marcel reveals nothing; and the two of them are reconciled again as they play Johannes

Brahms's "G Major Sonata for Violin and Piano" and allow their thoughts to linger affectionately on the memory of the woman who deserted them.

Resnais, never more at home than when stealthily entering the universe of a writer (Jean Cayrol in "Muriel", Marguerite Duras in "Hiroshima Mon Amour" and Alain Robbe-Grillet in "L'Année Dernière à Marienbad", for example), has this time opted for a faithful and uncomplicated rendering of Bernstein's work. As a result, the film's emotional content slowly but surely grips the spectator by the throat until the tears flow — a rare event nowadays in the movies.

Although the film follows the original faithfully, the Resnais touch is everywhere in evidence: in Jacques Saulnier's sets, which are a masterpiece of meticulous authenticity; in the combination of rigour and flexibility with which the camera movements accompany, highlight or anticipate emotional developments; in the inspired sobriety of Manicha's suicide, one of the most moving such moments ever suggested in the cinema (night, a wall, steps, dark water); but above all in the performance of the four actors, Fanny Ardant, Sébastien Azéma, Pierre Arditi and André Dussollier (who all also appeared in Resnais's previous two films, "La Vie Est un Roman" and "L'Amour à Mort").

## Alain Resnais: a cutting edge behind the glitter

Why did you deliberately choose to adapt Henry Bernstein's play for the screen?

All my films have grown out of a combination of chance and necessity. I've never in my life taken a finished screenplay along to a producer. It's always been the other way round. That's why I describe all my films as commissioned films. But once they have been commissioned I insist on absolute freedom to make them as I wish.

I was working on a project with Milan Kundera and trying to keep to a budget of 10 million francs (about £1 million). But, however hard we tried we couldn't hammer out a script that would have cost less than three times that amount to shoot. So I reluctantly dropped the project. It's always a great shame when a film falls through.

Then Fanny Ardant said to me: "In the meantime, why don't you put on a play, and why not a play by that man Bernstein you're always talking about?" It's true that from 1936 on I attended the first performances of all his plays. All except "Le Bonheur", that is.

I couldn't resist the pleasure of going to the theatre to watch people like Claude Dauphin, René Devillars, Gaby Morlay and Victor Francen. I could never persuade anyone to come along with me, but anyway I was always thrilled by his plays. Afterwards I could never understand why — not that that mattered.

Sacha Guitry liked to quote a critic's remark about an actor in one of his plays: "He has such power as a comedian that it is

I arranged to meet Resnais in the bar of the luxury Paris hotel, the Plaza-Athénée, one of those extraordinarily discreet, anonymous, smart and dignified places that Resnais finds so congenial. He turned up wearing his usual beige trench-coat, which was neither well-worn nor brand new. He had left home early that morning to check up on the quality of the projection in the various Paris cinemas where "Melo" was about to be released.

Resnais had a cold, and ordered tea with

lemon. As always in hotel bars of that kind, there was an obnoxious "Sorry sir, the machine isn't working". Resnais frowned — in his case, the greatest possible manifestation of irritation.

Then he opened a rather old and battered briefcase and pulled out a gleaming thesaurus flask: "Oh that doesn't matter, I've brought my tea with me." A picnic in a swish bar: it was a nice scene that might have come straight out of a Resnais film.

of Steven Spielberg: he has succeeded in bringing my dreams true. I had begun working on an imaginary life of the Marquis de Sade with an American artist, Jim Streranko. It was Streranko that Spielberg got to design the cursed temple in "Indiana Jones".

Does the fact that "Melo" was shot on a shoestring make you less worried than you might have been about its box-office performance?

I always pull in roughly the same audiences. But 20 years ago my films used to be released in only two or three cinemas. Nowadays, to attract the same number of filmgoers they have to be shown in anything up to 20 cinemas. That works out more expensive, as each print costs 10,000 francs (about £1,000).

I can usually rely on between 150,000 and 300,000 spectators in Paris. For a film-maker, that's rather a dangerous position to be in. I'd better only once, with "Mon Oncle d'Amérique", which had very bad reviews.

No, sorry, "Stevisky" also topped the 300,000 mark. After the way it was butchered at the Cannes Film Festival — there's no word — that wasn't too bad, though the presence of Jean-Paul Belmondo helped. People refused to forgive me for not having made a historical film. The distributors threatened to withdraw my backing unless the title "Stevisky" was used. I'd have preferred "L'Empire d'Alexandre", "Le Tombeau d'Alexandre", or, better even, "Biarritz Bonheur".

When I suggested to an American producer that he make a film version of "Conan", he laughed in my face and said: "That's for the elite." Subsequent events proved him wrong. But perhaps my version of "Conan" wouldn't have been a box-office success. That's why I'm a great admirer

### Interview by Danièle Heyman

worked out a shooting schedule that came to 21½ days. We didn't quite keep to it — we took 23. But it was a pretty good effort.

Weren't they a little put off by Bernstein's language?

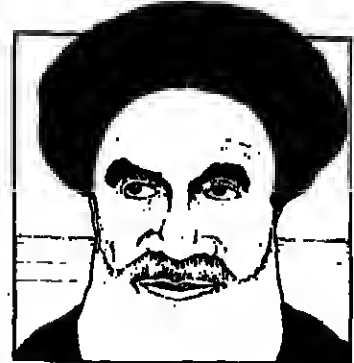
I don't know how "Melo" will be received. But I can tell you that we made the film out of love, and not

anyway you've always liked melodrama, haven't you?

Yes, and music hall too. "Hiroshima Mon Amour" was constructed around Edith Piaf. And I love serialised novels as well — you know, for ages I've wanted to adapt "The Adventures of Harry Dickson" for the screen.

When I suggested to an American producer that he make a film version of "Conan", he laughed in my face and said: "That's for the elite." Subsequent events proved him wrong. But perhaps my version of "Conan" wouldn't have been a box-office success. That's why I'm a great admirer

of some perverse penchant for old-fashioned drama; we also decided, unanimously, not to attempt any distancing effects. We had great fun imagining all the elegant and clever devices that I could have used in the film — montage sequences including navelis, an evocation of the rise of Nazism in Germany, or the arrival of a noiseful Delage limousine at the steps of a private mansion. We didn't do any of that.



Jean Gueyras concludes a two part report

Musavi and his "guardian angel" Ayatollah Montazeri. It is perhaps to strengthen Montazeri's constantly flouted authority that the committee of experts meeting in December 1985 made a formal and irreversible "recommendation" by officially designating Ayatollah Montazeri as Khomeini's successor.

All to no purpose. Consecrating the imam's heir-apparent in this way has failed to divert the attacks by the traditional Muslim clergy

who are now questioning Montazeri's title as "ayatollah ozma" (great ayatollah) and his religious qualifications. On the other hand, it has added to the suspicions of the mandarin solidly entrenched in the state's various institutions who take a dim view of the elevation of an individual whose reformist initiatives and rather unorthodox governing methods are scarcely acceptable to them.

The outcome of the August 1 legislative byelection in Tehran is especially revealing in this respect: it led to the defeat of Ayatollah Montazeri's candidate, Hojatoleslam Ahmadi, who was beaten by former Interior Minister Hojatoleslam Natcheg Nuri. Nuri, who is a member of the Islamic Republican Party's right wing, had the full backing of Rafsanjani, who up to this time was thought to be one of Montazeri's main allies. In fact, ever since the committee of experts chose him to step into Imam Khomeini's highly coveted shoes, Ayatollah Montazeri has become an embarrassment to most of the people holding any power in Iran. These men, while disagreeing among themselves on the problems facing Iran, have joined together to clip the wings of

Khomeini's successor, the better to retain their hold on him the day he moves into the country's top job.

Oddly enough, Khomeini, who had done everything possible to make Montazeri his firm and definitive successor, now seems to be frightened by the drive the latter has undertaken against immobility in the regime and the headline postures of its leaders. The warning he gave the press at the end of July — "Hold your pens. Note that everything should not be written, everything should not be published" — seems to have been aimed primarily at the right to liberalisation policy and the right to dissent championed by Ayatollah Montazeri. In spite of the honour due to him as the future "guide of the revolution", Imam Khomeini's successor is a lonely man today.

(September 21/22)

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# The Washington Post

## Out Of A Gilded Cage

## Daniloff Freed By Russians

JOURNALIST Nicholas Daniloff was in a gilded cage in Moscow — in the custody of the American ambassador, but facing a kangaroo trial. In those circumstances, the United States government was bound to see to his early relief. The Soviets are not above treating their citizens, and others who fell into their hands, as pawns, but that is not a practice Americans will countenance for one of their own. Nick Daniloff is "out" now, to use the telling word foreigners apply when they leave Moscow. Plainly, it is not only his fellow journalists who rejoice that he is again a free man.

President Reagan presented his departure in a spirit suggestive of triumph, and drew applause from a campaign audience. Whether there is more to cheer than the rescue of one American, however, awaits disclosure of the terms of release. Trading in flesh is, though familiar, repugnant. To become so "sophisticated" as to think of such a transaction as "normal" or "realistic" in matters including the Kremlin is to yield the American premise of individual dignity and to take on the cold Soviet way of looking at people as things.

There was, it seems, a special reason on the American side why the terms were not made public at once: to emphasize the supposedly unconditional aspect of Mr. Daniloff's release and to deny at least the appearance of any sort of exchange for Gennadi Zakharov, the Soviet spy case jailed in New York. Evidently, however, this man too is imbedded in a package whose other elements include the 25 accused spies at the Soviet Union's mission at the United Nations and perhaps some Soviet dissidents imprisoned or otherwise restricted in Moscow. It is, as we say, a distasteful if unavoidable kind of arithmetic that must be done. And no matter what the sum, it cannot alter the harsh fact that an American was grossly abused and that a precedent was set to expose foreign journalists to phony spy charges.

The freeing of Nick Daniloff happened to fall just as arms control negotiations were starting to look up. This cut two ways: it kept President Reagan's response short of an immediate and unequivocal suspension of the negotiations; it gave Mikhail Gorbachev some incentive to clear the case on terms satisfactory to the United States. As it is, Mr. Reagan has come under attack in some customarily friendly domestic quarters, among others, for seeming to pull his punches. Whether he can yet emerge able to continue his sound and broadly popular policy aimed at improving some aspects of Soviet-American relations depends on how the terms of the freeing of Nick Daniloff play out.

## House Overrides Sanctions Veto

### By Edward Walsh

WASHINGTON — The House on Monday easily overrode President Reagan's veto of legislation that would impose new economic sanctions against South Africa as Reagan, maneuvering to sustain the veto in the Senate, offered to impose some of the same measures against Pretoria by executive order.

The House's 313 to 83 vote to override was never in doubt. In the main battleground, the Republican-controlled Senate, supporters of the sanctions bill predicted that the promised executive order would fail to deter that chamber from also defying the president and enacting the measure into law later this week.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., the chief architect of the sanctions bill, said failure to override the veto would be seen by the South African government as a victory and cast the United States in the role of apologists for apartheid. "The foreign policy issue is not just the number of sanctions imposed on South Africa," Lugar said. "To argue that there are Republican sanctions, imposed by the president, as opposed to bipartisan congressional sanctions, weakens American foreign policy."

Reagan, repeating a maneuver that succeeded last year in heading off congressional enactment of sanctions legislation, offered the executive order compromise in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., and House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr., D-Mass. If his veto is sustained, the president said, he would ban the import of South African iron and steel, prohibit the South African government and its agencies from holding U.S. bank accounts and provide \$25 million

in aid to disadvantaged South Africans.

These provisions are contained in the sanctions legislation, which also includes a number of other steps that Reagan ignored. The bill would ban the import of uranium, coal, textiles, and agricultural products from South Africa, sever the U.S. landing rights of South African Airways and prohibit U.S. government agencies from buying goods and services from South Africa or assisting trade efforts with South Africa.

In his letter to Dole and O'Neill, Reagan said he was disappointed that South Africa, "instead of moving further down the once promising path of reform and dialogue, has turned to internal repression." He said the sanctions necessary in today's circumstances and would "unite it plain to South Africa's leaders that we cannot conduct business as usual with a government that mistakes the alliance of racial repression for the consent of the governed."

Administration sources said that, at an unspecified time after Zakharov's return, some Soviet dissidents also would be released. They said that Shultz and Shevardnadze also had discussed the case of a 47-year-old Soviet breast cancer patient and her husband, a Jewish "refusenik" who has sought to leave the Soviet Union for 20 years.

Without linking it to any other matter, Soviet authorities in Moscow on Monday told this couple, Tatyana and Benjamin Bogomolny, that they have "permission to leave" and will receive a formal visa within two weeks, according to Dr. Gerald Batist, a Montreal cancer researcher who spoke with Tatyana Bogomolny by telephone.

The compromise also included an agreement to limit the size of the Soviet mission at the United Nations and to expel "most" of 25 Soviet officials identified as spies, administration sources said. But a U.S. official pointed out that the Soviets say they have only 205 staff members currently assigned to their U.N. mission and may

actually be able to add personnel and still comply with a Reagan administration directive limiting the Soviet mission personnel to 218 by Oct. 1.

The names of the 25 Soviets who the administration said are spies have never been made public. A White House official said on Monday that "a few" of these 25 may be allowed to remain because the information about their purported espionage activities is not as definite as it is for others on the list.

An official familiar with the negotiations said the list of the 25 purported spies had included "some negotiating room." He also said the Soviets accepted privately that the United States had a right to limit the size of the mission

By Lou Cannon

despite protesting publicly that the action was illegal. Additional discussions will be held on the Reagan administration's order that the Soviet mission be reduced to 170 employees over three years, officials said.

Although White House and State Department officials maintained public silence on details of the negotiations, they were privately jubilant because Daniloff had been released without even having to enter a plea in a Soviet court and Zakharov will not contest the charges against him. They were also pleased that most of the 25 purported spies have left for the Soviet Union or will depart soon. "We got everything we wanted," a White House official said.

However, the Soviets are expected to say that they prevailed in the confrontation because Zakharov is being allowed to return to the Soviet Union — as they have insisted should have been the case from the beginning. The Soviets have insisted on "equivalency" between Daniloff and Zakharov.

Reuters quoted Valentin Karymov, spokesman for the Soviet U.N. mission, as saying that Zakharov would be released soon. "If one was released, the other will be released for sure," Karymov said. But U.S. officials are presenting the compromise not as a swap of Zakharov for Soviet dissidents. Among the dissidents mentioned who may be freed are Yuri Orlov, founder of the Soviet Helsinki Watch Committee, and Jewish activists Ido Nudel, Vladimir Slepak and David Goldfarb. The latter is a friend of Daniloff's who said the KGB tried to induce him to frame the correspondent.

Whatever the ultimate historical verdict on the outcome of the

negotiations, administration and diplomatic sources agree that the desire of both sides to hold a second summit meeting between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev contributed to the outcome. "It quickly became apparent in the (Shultz-Shevardnadze) discussions in Washington that both sides realized we are on a summit track, and wanted to stay on that track," said a White House official. One source familiar with the negotiations said they "preserved defensible ground rules for superpower relationships".

Daniloff, a 51-year-old U.S. News & World Report correspondent who has just completed five years in Moscow, vigorously protested his innocence and was backed by Reagan, who called his arrest an "outrage" and vowed on Sept. 8 that there would be "no trade" of him for Zakharov. On Sept. 12, Daniloff and Zakharov were released from jail to the custody of their ambassadors in Moscow and New York, on arrangement that provoked conservative criticism of the president because it appeared to treat the two cases equally.

## 'More Sorrow Than Anger'

By Robert J. McCartney and Gary Lee

NICHOLAS Daniloff stepped off a Lufthansa plane in Frankfurt on Monday evening to end a 30-day ordeal that began when the KGB arrested him in Moscow and accused him of spying. Daniloff and his wife Ruth flew from Moscow after the U.S. government reached a deal with the Kremlin allowing the reporter to leave Soviet territory.

Ruth Daniloff, a 51-year-old Briton, had tears in her eyes as she stood by her husband on the runway and a magazine colleague of her husband handed her a T-shirt reading, "Frea Nick Daniloff".

Daniloff did not smile, but appeared grim, as he accused the Soviets of having sought to frame him. "The KGB did not punish me. The KGB punished itself," said Daniloff. "I think it's obvious to everybody what has happened over this last month. I was arrested without an arrest warrant. A case was fabricated against me for the narrow political purpose of giving the Soviet Union some political leverage over the case of Gennadi Zakharov in New York."

Daniloff had arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport for the departure shortly after 6 o'clock, and, fighting tears, told reporters in a brief statement, "I must say I leave more in sorrow than in anger." He then read in Russian two stanzas of a poem by 19th century Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov, saying the poet's words, written when he was exiled to the Russian Caucasus, best expressed his own feelings.

"Faraway, unwashed Russia. Country of slaves, country of gentry. And you, blue coated soldiers. And you, obedient people. Perhaps, behind the spine of the Caucasus I hide myself from your paahas. From your all-seeing eyes. And your all-hearing ears."

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## Senate Rejects Extra Aid To Philippines

By Helen Dewar

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday rejected \$200 million in additional aid to the Philippines as it began debate over a huge, complicated and controversial catchall spending bill for next year that is thwarting plans for adjournment of the 99th Congress. The new economic assistance, which the House approved September 18 in the wake of an enthusiastically received address to Congress by Philippine President Corason Aquino, was turned down by the Senate on a largely party-

line vote of 51 to 43.

Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., and most other GOP leaders fought the new aid to the Philippines proposed by Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., and supported by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., on grounds that it would come at the expense of other deserving allies. They should not be punished "because someone came here and gave a speech," said Dole, warning against what he called a "rush to

judgment" in according to a "knee-jerk" response by the House, and questioning Philippine commitment to retaining U.S. military bases.

Dole indicated later that, if legal complications can be worked out, he may be able to support a compromise involving transfer to the Philippines of \$200 million from \$300 million designated for support of several Central American democracies as part of the aid package, for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, or contra-



## Labor And The American Bases In Britain

By Karen DeYoung

LONDON — Neil Kinnock, the volatile, red-headed Welshman who leads Britain's opposition Labor Party, plans to travel to the United States in December to give a speech at Harvard University that will outline Labor's proposed policies for British defense. It will be Kinnock's first trip across the North Atlantic since late 1983, when many Americans, in and out of government, listened with appalled or amused incredulity to Labor proposals for the unilateral dismantling of Britain's independent nuclear arsenal, the expulsion of U.S. cruise missiles and the closing of all U.S. nuclear bases in this country.

The proposals, although still a little rough around the edges, have been refined since then. But the message Kinnock will bring to the United States is essentially the same: Labor is committed to a nuclear-free Britain.

Moreover, it is pledged to work within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for a promise of no first use of nuclear weapons, and an overall nuclear-weapons freeze.

The main difference between 1983 and now is that three years ago, Labor had just suffered its most disastrous electoral defeat ever, due in no small part to public rejection of its defense policy. This time, with new elections due no later than mid-1988, and possibly as early as next spring, Labor may well win.

The most recent public-opinion poll, released last Thursday, gave Labor the support of 40 percent of the electorate, six points ahead of the governing Conservatives. Conducted by Marplan, a leading British pollster, it showed an 11-point swing in Labor's favor since the 1983 elections, and put Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her lowest standing in three years.

According to U.S. diplomats in several Western European countries, the possibility of a Labor victory has just started to register in Washington. But it already has provoked some reaction. In an interview last May with *The Sunday Times*, the U.S. ambassador to Britain, Charles Price, warned that if Labor went ahead with its pledge to remove American missiles from British soil, U.S. public and Congressional support could build to and the American military presence in Britain altogether. In a recently taped interview televised here Monday, the day Labor opened its annual party conference, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said that an antinuclear Labor government in Britain could lead to the breakup of NATO.

Diplomats are hoping the Reagan administration will remain calm, avoiding public threats and predictions of doom that could be interpreted as interference and cause voter backlash in the current anti-American climate here. But even the most sanguine among them privately agree with Weinberger. "If the Labor Party won with a winning majority," said one, "we could be looking at the start of what might be the most serious crisis ever to affect NATO in its history."

In defense planning terms, Britain's island geography serves as the ideal storage site for much of NATO's war-fighting equipment — both nuclear and conventional — and as the jumping off point for trans-Atlantic reinforcement of U.S. troops.

The problem is seen much more as a political than a strategic one, however. "Britain is different" from the rest of NATO, said a U.S. official who closely follows the alliance. For reasons of history, language and a shared view of the world, its relationship with the United States is one "that you can't report with any other country in Europe." Britain is seen as the guarantor of Western Europe's commitment to NATO and, therefore, to America. "If you don't have this intimate military relationship" between the two countries, the official said, "you do not have NATO. If you do not have NATO, given the record of the continent, you will have another war in Europe."

To Labor policy-makers, that argument is both nonsense on its face and a misrepresentation of a party program that Labor defense spokesman Denis Davies says is "totally committed to NATO." In its newly refined version — the result of hard-fought internal party battles since 1983 — Labor couples its non-nuclear promise with a pledge to beef up Britain's conventional forces, both at home and in the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany. The party is committed to maintain British

defense-spending at a level that would still exceed that of any other major NATO government in Europe.

Their weapons proposals, party officials say, would simply put Britain in the same category as the NATO majority in Western Europe that does not allow nuclear weapons based on its soil. And, they argue, the implemented policy would put Britain in the forefront of a growing belief throughout the continent that current NATO strategy is due for wholesale revision.

"The climate is much more favorable," said Denis Healey, a former British defense minister and currently Labor's foreign-affairs spokesman, in an interview. "There is a growing school of thought on both sides of the Atlantic in favor of a non-nuclear strategy for NATO, and a non-provocative conventional strategy. I wouldn't by any means claim it is a majority, even in the defense intelligentsia," Healey said. "But it is a growing strain, even in America."

Ironically, the 70-year-old Healey is as responsible for Britain's nuclear capability and its deep defense ties with the United States as any still-active politician here. He was first elected to Parliament in 1946,



Denis Healey

along with the postwar Labor government of Clement Attlee, the leading force in the establishment of NATO. The Truman-Attlee accords of the early 1950s are still in effect as the secret guidelines governing the U.S. military presence in Britain. As then-Prime Minister Harold Wilson's defense secretary from 1964 to 1970, Healey presided over the deployment of the four Polaris submarines, with 64 missiles, that still form the backbone of the British nuclear arsenal.

Along with former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara, Healey helped develop NATO's "trip-wire" strategy, the 1960s doctrine holding that early use of nuclear weapons was the best way to fight a war against the Soviets in Europe. In 1983, Healey and a fellow party "Atlanticist," former Prime Minister James Callaghan, drove two of the principle nails in Labor's electoral coffin when they publicly disagreed with the party's promise to unilaterally dismantle the Polaris system without first negotiating comparable weapons cuts with the Soviet Union.

Until the late 1970s, the postwar Atlanticists, along with what one senior Labor defense analyst calls the "strong jingoistic tradition" of grass-roots supporters in the trade-union movement, held the balance of party power against the "pacifists," those who favored unilateral disarmament on moral grounds. In the early 1980s, however, following NATO's decision to deploy intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Western Europe, and a low abn in U.S.-Soviet relations, the unilateralists became the loudest in the party. As Labor now acknowledges, however, its volume and stridency, combined with public evidence of dissonance over defense questions within the Labor leadership, amounted to electoral poison. Labor's traditional supporters within the patriotic working-class voted in droves for Thatcher, who had just led Britain to victory in the Falklands War.

Today, much of Thatcher's working-class support threatens to become a casualty of the high unemployment rates and decreas-

ing social services under her government. Conservative Party analysts acknowledge that a principle part of Tory strategy to keep these new voters in the fold during the next election is to remind them of Labor's dangerous defense policies.

While the unilateralists seem now to have a bigger hold over Labor than ever, the party's strategists maintain that Labor has learned its lesson. "Defense policy can't win an election by itself," said the senior analyst, "but it can lose one." Labor believes the vote-losing potential of its defense policy has been mitigated since 1983 by several factors. Principals among them is its new commitment to beef up Britain's conventional forces and keep defense spending at its current high level, as much as 5 percent of national income, for the first several years of a Labor government. In the last election, we were the party of disarmament but not of defense," said defense spokesman Davies in a speech to senior military officers last year. "The argument now is how best to defend Britain within the western alliance, rather than... whether we want to defend Britain at all."

Labor hopes to save money to spend on

to Deputy Prime Minister William Whitelaw — by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during a Parliamentary visit. Party strategists hope that any internal disagreement over Polaris can be papered over during the electoral campaign, and are counting on Healey, who wants to become foreign secretary under the next Labor government, not to call attention to the issue. The party expects much more oiled to be paid to its promise to "regularize" the presence of U.S. military forces here. "That means the bases, more than anything else," said the Labor defense analyst. It is a policy expected to meet with widespread public approval, particularly evident since Thatcher's highly unpopular decision last April to allow the U.S. raid on Libya to be launched from air bases in Britain.

"The Libyan bombing legitimized the debate" over the U.S. presence here, said Robert Worcester of the Market Opinion and Research Institute. "Up to the day that happened," he said, "Labor defense policy had no credibility. It was not a subject of legitimate debate, and it was dismissed by both the pundits and the electorate."

U.S. diplomats tend to agree. "There is already an antipathy toward the Reagan administration" in Europe, said one. "That's where the Libya raid really hurt," by implying that the administration took no notice of European opinion, even while using European territory.

But although Labor documents call for "the unconditional removal of all U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from British soil and British waters," it remains unclear which U.S. installations here the party has in mind. Nuclear weapons are permanently based at only a handful of facilities — two bases where U.S. cruise missiles are deployed, five airfields with "nuclear capable" aircraft, and the Poseidon submarine base located at Holy Loch, Scotland. But there are as many as 100 installations with facilities related to the U.S. nuclear role in NATO, including communications and intelligence sites, weapons storage depots and other posts.

"Minimalists" in the party, such as Healey, interpret the policy as signaling the start of lengthy negotiations with the United States and the rest of NATO over the conditions and schedule for withdrawal. But a substantial segment of "maximalists," said the Labor defense analyst, contend the policy means "everybody out... all bases with any nuclear-related function."

There is some hope among party moderates that success in ongoing U.S.-Soviet arms reduction negotiations to Europe will begin to resolve many of Labor's disarmament dilemmas before the next election here. Concurrent with their campaign preparations, Labor leaders are working to solidify the party's links with Western Europe's other ecocrit and social democratic movements, in the belief that they are riding a political pendulum that gradually is swinging the entire region toward the nonnuclear left.

It is an assessment that many U.S. and other Western diplomats do not entirely dispute. Three years after NATO saw the first European deployment of U.S. cruise missiles as marking the beginning of the end of the disarmament movement, alliance doctrine are again being called into question, along with what is perceived as outdated U.S. dominance. "The prospects used to be generally agreed," said one diplomat. "Now they aren't." The pro-NATO left and center in Europe are asking whether NATO's current strategy of "flexible" conventional nuclear response to an attack from the East, the policy successor to "trip-wire," has itself become outmoded. Terms like "nonprovocative" and "defensive" conventional defense have increasing appeared in mainstream party platforms.

Several reasons are given for the shift that is beginning to be perceived in Europe. First, largely, it is partly generational, taking into account the four decades that have passed since Europe's last war; provided recent foundation. But there are more. Recent phenomenon... a new level of European belief in the Soviet desire for substantive nuclear weapons reductions, a growing lack of confidence in American decision-making, the Chernobyl nuclear accident, increased fears of weapons-induced nuclear winter. "The political ground has shifted," concluded a seasoned alliance-watcher here. "The question of European defense has been reopened."

that they sometimes have difficulty distinguishing their own situation from the one south of the border.

For example, teenagers arrested here who have been raised on a diet of American police television dramas sometimes demand that police read them their Miranda warnings — even though that guarantee against self-incrimination takes its name from a ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court, not Canada's.

Last fall, parents in Montreal followed those in New York City in demanding that children with AIDS be barred from attending regular school classes. The clamor subsided once school officials assured the

Editorial writers and cartoonists across the country lambasted Mulroney for what some described as his "me-tooism." Physicians, police and drug-abuse experts said that while drug abuse, particularly of cocaine, has been growing in Canada, the problem was far less serious than in the United States.

Norm Bolen, the executive producer of the CBC radio program that Mulroney had cited, said it "did not talk in any way about a drug epidemic in Canada." A follow-up aired later was devoted to discounting Mulroney's comment.

The ensuing flap appeared to illustrate two somewhat contradictory strands of Canadian thinking. On the one hand, Canadians are so influenced by American television programs, magazines and movies

TORONTO — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney startled then riled many Canadians with his declaration last month that Canada is afflicted with a drug "epidemic."

The jeers were even louder when Mulroney volunteered to submit to a urinalysis, as Reagan had done and seemed to indicate that he favored mandatory drug testing for Canadian government employees, as had been advocated within the Reagan administration.

The leader of Canada's opposition Liberal Party, John Turner, said, "I can't help wondering if there is any bendwagon that goes by that Mr. Mulroney doesn't jump on."

Mulroney tried in vain to extricate himself from the controversy that followed his speech recently in Vancouver, where he promised new legislation to combat drug abuse. The problem, he said, "has become an epidemic which undermines our economic as well as our social fabric."

The prime minister indicated that it was mere coincidences that he had raised the alarm just as President and Mrs. Reagan were going on the air to launch their war on drugs. Mulroney said his comments were prompted by a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio documentary that morning on drug abuse in Canada.

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Cartoon by Ed Franklin in the Toronto Globe and Mail

that they sometimes have difficulty distinguishing their own situation from the one south of the border.

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Critics say Canada's Prime Minister found 'epidemic' by looking south, then imported remedy

## Mulroney's 'Me-Tooism' Touches Canadians' Raw Nerve

By Herbert H. Denton

Quebec parents that, unlike in New York, no Montreal child had been diagnosed at that time as having the deadly disease.

On the other hand, Canadians like to think they have a distinct cultural identity that sets them apart from Americans. They react with fury when they perceive their leaders to be marching to a tune set in Washington.

Turner had little opportunity to gloat about Mulroney's difficulties on this score. Later in the week, his former campaign manager, Keith Davey, said in an excerpt from an upcoming book that in 1984 Turner, then prime minister, had backed away from an attack on U.S. nuclear policy after being so advised by his friend, Secretary of State George P. Shultz. The disclosure has touched off a major ruckus as Turner prepares for a possible challenge to his leadership of the Liberal Party at its convention in November.

As Mulroney began backing off his initial

expressions of support for drug testing, one of his ministers, Barbara McDougall, rejected the idea outright. "We don't live in a police state in Canada and we don't intend to create one," she said.

Later, neither the members of Mulroney's personal staff nor officials at the Health and Welfare Ministry had documentation of a drug epidemic here.

Customs inspectors and Royal Canadian Mounted Police drug enforcement officers noted that Mulroney recently had cut back on the numbers of drug investigators and airport and border inspectors.

"Mr. Mulroney should shut up or shut up; his statements appear very contradictory," said Mansel Legacy, president of the customs agents' union.

CBC producer Bolen said his program had discussed indications that a ring of Iranians was peddling a cheap grade of heroin in video arcades and reggae clubs in Montreal but that experts had estimated heroin addicts there numbered only about 5,000.

In Toronto, Garth Martin, head of treatment services for the provincially run Addict Research Foundation, said of drug abuse in Ontario, "We have some reason to be optimistic even though we are seeing a modest increase in cocaine users." He said the increase was largely among those 30 to 45 years old and appeared to cut across all classes. Among teenagers, though, he said, there was at first a "plateauing," then a decline in overall drug abuse during the past five years.

"Alcohol is still by far the biggest drug problem," he said. If Mulroney's remarks touched off a political furor, they appeared to have accomplished little else. In a downtown Toronto strip, uniformed police officers appeared to be making no special effort to halt drug trafficking.

By 6:05 that Friday afternoon, the entire drug enforcement branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police unit in Toronto had cleared out for the weekend. Callers were advised to phone on Monday.

## Thousands Still Homeless One Year After Mexico Earthquake

MEXICO CITY — More than 80,000 people are still living in temporary shelters in streets and parks one year after their homes were destroyed by the Mexico City earthquake, putting officials on the defensive about slow-moving reconstruction efforts.

In the government's latest effort to show progress in its earthquake housing programs, President Miguel de la Madrid ceremoniously presented disaster victims with titles to 9,900 new federally built apartments last week, bringing to 25,500 the number of families said officially to have received permanent new homes.

The president proclaimed a day of national mourning on the first anniversary of the quake and all radio stations went silent for one minute at 7:18 a.m., the hour the first of several quakes and aftershocks hit the city.

In all, officials estimated, the Sept. 19, 1985, earthquake left about 90,000 families in need of housing aid. Another 52,000 apartments are to be completed before the earthquake's second anniversary, according to administration officials. But two years after the disaster, they acknowledged, at least 10,000 families will probably remain unhoused.

Officials had originally promised to provide housing for all affected families by last Christmas. But while 12,500 unoccupied state housing units were quickly handed out to homeless government employees, according to official accounts, construction of most new housing projects did not get underway until Easter.

Cuauhtemoc Abarcia, the coordinator of a combative coalition of organizations representing the homeless, led protest marches against the program's slow progress, bitterly criticizing the government's decision to spend international aid on the reconstruction of schools and hospitals instead of housing.

"This money was given to help

the people, the victims of the earthquake, and the government kept the money for itself," he complained in an interview.

On the anniversary, more than 10,000 earthquake victims and their supporters marched on Mexico City's main square to demand better for the homeless and criminal prosecution of officials responsible for a allegedly faulty construction of government buildings. Hours earlier, in a much smaller rally, several thousand government supporters gathered at the plaza to commemorate the anniversary.

Mexican officials vehemently defended their management of foreign disaster aid, noting the absence of substantial complaints from donors. The new housing drive was initially impeded not by a shortage of funds but by bureaucratic conflicts that have since been resolved, they contended.

"At first, there was a lot of confusion and a lack of organization," Gabino Fraga, deputy minister of ecology and urban development, said in an interview. "It took us six months to get a housing program together. But you have to appreciate the earthquake's magnitude. It was the strongest event to occur in such a densely populated urban area."

Measuring 8.1 on the open-ended Richter scale, the earthquake caused more than \$3.5 billion in physical damage to the capital and took about 20,000 lives, according to foreign diplomatic analysts. United Nations researchers and independent Mexican experts. The government has been criticized for failing to prepare its own comprehensive report detailing the disaster's damage and human casualties.

The 44,000 new center city apartments being given to victims are tiny by middle-class Mexican standards, with barely 500 square feet of floor space. But for most occupants, the new units are an improvement over their former, far

more cramped quarters in decaying buildings that in some cases dated back to Spanish colonial days. The government expropriated the old rental properties from private landlords and is selling the new apartments through long-term, low-interest loans, with payments not to exceed 30 percent of the monthly minimum wage.

"The new place looks pretty good to us," Eduardo Rosales, a mason, said after moving into a new apartment building with his wife and two children. "We have water, we have electricity, and it is going to be ours."

Acutely sensitive to charges that it mishandled the disaster, the government sponsored a series of ceremonies and conferences com-

By William A. Orme Jr.

memorating the earthquake and publicizing its reconstruction efforts. Internationally renowned seismologists and structural engineers attended scientific seminars, while foreign reporters were treated to a tour of rebuilt schools, hospitals and apartment buildings. Construction crews worked overtime readying new housing units in time for the presidential ceremonies.

Overshadowing the government's efforts, however, was a continuing antagonism between high-level officials and groups representing many of the earthquake victims.

Some observers traced the government's credibility problems to its refusal to estimate officially the number of dead, which led critics to accuse it of deliberately playing down the disaster.

"The government has consistently tried to hide information and minimize the facts," Abarcia said. In the anniversary week the government again reported only that death certificates had been issued for 4,287 bodies recovered from the ruins, declining to esti-

mate the complete death toll. Yet one week after the quake, federal officials estimated in private conversations with foreign reporters and diplomats that it had claimed 9,500 victims.

Fraga said the total number of victims could range from 10,000 to 15,000, but other officials immediately characterized his estimate as being "without basis."

The U.S. Embassy here, relying on its own investigations, Mexican military sources and other western governments, concluded in a published report that 20,000 to 30,000 people were killed in the disaster.

The death toll controversy reinforced skepticism about the government's disaster aid efforts, observers say.

"When a society is confronted with a tragedy of such magnitude and the authorities are trying to minimize it, that creates all kinds of reasons for suspicion," Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, a political analyst at Mexico's Economic Research Center, said in an interview.

Officials almost reflexively underestimated the death toll, Aguilar said, because they feared the disaster "would damage the image of an omnipotent superstate capable of handling any problem."

Another motive, critics charged, involved widespread accusations that many deaths were caused by allegedly corrupt construction practices in government building projects.

Officials acknowledged that quake damage was concentrated disproportionately in public buildings: of the estimated 20 million square feet of downtown office space destroyed by the temblor, about 12 million square feet belonged to the government.

Among the wrecked buildings were the headquarters of Mexico's

all built and managed by the government: the General Hospital, where 118 staff members and an estimated 200 patients died; the Juarros Hospital, where there were, by a medical association count, about 1,000 victims; and the Nuevo Leon apartment building, where the government acknowledged 289 deaths but tenants' groups said at least 800 residents were killed.

The government has declined to respond publicly to the charges of corruption and negligence. Yet foreign and independent Mexican experts who studied the quake damage said in an interview that the widespread destruction of government buildings was probably due to causes other than lax construction standards.

"You can't say that corruption was not a factor in some instances, but the percentage of damage attributable to corruption was probably very minimal," said Jorge Prince of the National University's Engineering Institute, one of a team of structural engineers now preparing a tougher, more detailed antiseismic building code for Mexico City.

Most of the earthquake's damage was provoked by the unusually prolonged, severe rocking of the boggy ancient lake bed beneath Mexico's capital, scientists say. For more than two minutes, with almost metronomic regularity, the soft center-city subsoil surged back and forth by one foot every two seconds, setting in motion extraordinary strains on broad-based buildings from five to 15 stories high — structures big enough to sway, but not tall or flexible enough to rock readily along with the earthquake's motion.

By coincidence, engineers reported, most buildings of this size and design in the downtown district belonged to the government, which had also widely employed a lightweight "waffle-slab" construction technique that proved vulnerable to the quake's stresses.

More seriously, the buildings with the largest losses of life were

THE GUARDIAN, October 5, 1986



By Douglas B. Feaver

News reports about Hersh's book and published excerpts have detailed the bottom line: The Soviets made a mistake when they shot down the airliner. They confused Flight 007, a Boeing 747 jumbo, for a U.S. Air Force surveillance plane, a military



There was no danger of that after the

It turns out the United States was willing to display the work of the Japanese, but not of its own forces. Harsh tells for the first time that a U.S. intelligence unit in Japan heard the Soviet fighter's radio communications as they occurred, something that many Western specialists have long suspected. If that was the case, why wasn't the plane warned?

*'The Target Is Destroyed'* is an effective effort to explain the shades of gray in a complex problem. It deserves a wide audience.

*Douglas B. Feaver covers transportation for the National staff of The Washington Post.*

**Ralph Whitlock**

Geese are one of the few agricultural products (if you can refer to such individualistic creatures as a product) which have defied all attempts at mass production. Tasty chicken, turkeys, pigs, ducks (Cherry Valley now exports them) by the hundred thousand to Hong Kong, China), beef cattle, battery hens and veal calves, all have yielded, but geese still resolutely refuse to be so exploited. They lay their eggs within well-defined calendar limits and then stop. Time-honoured country proverbs state just when:

With their droppings they foul pasture to such an extent that no self-respecting farmer would have them about the place, if his wife (whom pin-money they probably represented) did not insist!

Not only would I be unable to participate in such an outrage but I would have held now to have to kill a goose by any method. Well, the method we had to employ on the farm of my boyhood days was pretty barbarous. You stunned the goose by hitting his head with a hammer and then cut its jugular vein. But I have enjoyed this company of so many pet geese in my time and have found them so intelligent that I would feel like a man committing murder. No Mims chesmaas goose for me, thank you.

**Michael McNay on how the Swires are making a priceless Irish treasure available to the gnome on the street**

But that is art-historical speak. When all is said and done, as Erwigacker has it, no work can be more sublime than sublime. And art-historical quibbling to one side, Joyce was right about the maddily intricate illuminations of the Book

Normally when people ask me "how are you?" I respond in the manner prescribed in all the books on etiquette. "How are you?" Now, to their amazement and horror, I tell them "I have this sort of opening-and-shuttering sensation in the small of my back. And I'm twitching in the nerves behind my knees. I've been to the doctor and we're waiting for the result of the second X-ray. The urologist says that. . . ." But by that time the

**By Roy Hettersley**

A bad back is essentially working class condition. It comes directly from the minutes of Department of Health and Social Security Tribunal. "The appellant claimed that consequent upon his bad back, he was still unfit for work because he remained precluded from lifting heavy objects. Of course, the independent medical examination did not confirm the diagnosis and sickness benefit was suspended. None of the Milfordgate had bad backs. No bulletins hanging on the gates of Clarendon House, ever described the latest news on the bad back which the Queen Mother endured.

The aristocratic end, the har-

Bad backs are also risible. A last week, I walked into the surgery, speaking the immortal line, "Doctor, I've got a bad back." I felt that I had become a bit of a player in a Bon Travels farce. The Crazy Gang had bad backs. Cheeky characters played by Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau have bad backs, which "lock rigid" at inconvenient moments. Bad backs appear in the league table of silly diseases somewhere between hemorrhoids and tennis elbow.

My bad back is — I am authoritatively assured — the product of wear and tear combined with mistakes made by home septics several thousand years ago. T

**By Roy Hettersley**

To be frank, I have no idea whether or not these explanations of the cause of my condition make scientific sense or are simply mumbo-jumbo. Nor am I completely certain if the comparisons with the internal combustion engine are wholly apposite. I merely report the comments and condolences offered to me by strangers and slight acquaintances to whom have described the shooting pains that spread from the base of my spine. For one of the symptoms of

Last week, in the Reform Club, a person whom I barely know said that it was all to do with reflexology and that she could put me right by manipulating my feet. Other helpful suggestions have involved acupuncturists, osteopaths and homeopaths. All these propositions have been politely turned down. Where I come from, homeopaths are concerned with the herbs and remedies that used to be on sale at the sarsaparilla shop to which I went for light refreshment after playing tennis in Hillsborough Park. If I am to suffer from working class disability, I am at least entitled to decent working class treatment.

I insist on being treated by proper doctor. . . . a superior suit species of the human race which can be easily defined. Proper doctors are 55. Proper doctors are tweed suits and are Scottish. They can produce an endless stream of reassuring clichés like "we'll go you right in no time," and they have no truck with fancy modern theories that require complicated and expensive equipment to be installed in their consulting rooms. No matter how great the emergency, the doctor never takes a moment's rest until the face has been lighted and the steps swept. The only visited after the parts of the anatomy which they are to examine have been thoroughly washed clean under their hands, been put on. Proper doctors always ask if you want a sick note.

But they are careful not to write upon it, the dreadful diagnosis "bad back." For nobody takes bad backs seriously. It is the disease of malingersers, the condition of the work-shy, the affliction of the lazy. They write "trapped nerve" or "displaced vertebrae" and the smile comforting smiles. At length they think that is what they do. They may really be suppressing the laughter which is the natural reaction to the opening line "Doctor, I've got a bad back."

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## Tongue tied

TV: Nancy Banks-Smith goes round the world and into space to hear English as she is exported

IT IS in general a good idea when writing to throw away your first paragraph. This is because you have taken particular pains to write it beautifully. It is, in consequence, completely untellable. I became a TV critic somewhat suddenly when the former critic went off his head and the reason they noticed was not that his first par made no sense — that was to be expected — but neither did his second, his third or fourth.

The Story of English (BBC 2) should have thrown away the first

programme. An English-Speaking World. I can't believe it won't get better now they have got that off their chest. It was like being a lady-in-waiting on some exhausted and eccentrically planned world tour. Russia, Barre, Ghana, Sierra Leone. "May I present William Saphire, America's most widely-read language guru?" "How do you do, language guru?" "And the Prime Minister of Singapore?" "On, on, to California to meet Moon Zappa — 'who flashed around the world' — and half a dozen West Coast kooks. On to Japan, China and the reaches of outermost space with Voyager. No wonder Prince Charles likes to sit in his arbour talking to the roses after one of those."

There was a strong temptation to wander off down secluded alleys while nobody was looking. Who, for instance, were this

prewar couple, both in evening dress, reading from an action-packed script in cut-glass accents? "What's that?" "It's gulls. We've disturbed them." "Better keep clear of the benches." At which a little man in spectacles and evening dress did so impressively and thrillingly. "He deserves to die."

Or the Notary in India offering "Affidavits, photos, power of attorney, bond, hundies, estated here." Hundies? Or the octogenarian former president of Sierra Leone who keeps a stuffed lioness in his study (and whose son when last heard of was improving his English at Her Majesty's Pleasure). Or the little group of Chinese following, with touching attention, an English by television programme. Follow Me, which has the largest audience in China. A group of middle-aged actors were discussing going to

Brighton. "How far is Brighton?" asked one gloomily. "It's 85 kilometres away," said Friends Matthews. No-one hit him. "How can we get to Brighton?" droned the pealman bopelously. "By train. Train is quicker than coach," said a particularly bossy woman. "How far is Brighton?" repeated a young Chinese with the shaming wonder of a child asking how many miles to Babylon.

It is a pity a programme about English should be so badly written. By a Scotman as it happens. And if English is so wonderful, why did everyone refer to it as a lingua franca?

It is fairly unfortunate that the last royal seen talking to a plant was George III, who took off his hat to a tree believing it to be the King of Bohemia. Prince Charles, who omitted the same habit in In Private, In Public (ITN) thinks George III had many good points.

The tree seconded that. Alan J. Lerover said he talked to the tree but complained that they didn't listen to him. Prince Charles, however, says, "They respond, I find."

Gardeners' Question Time, consulted on this very issue, held that if plants benefit from being talked to, it is because you are in a better position to see that they are riddled with thrips, blight, moles, mould and the invisible worm that flies in the night. I find they respond well to threats of violence. This is known as the Princess Anne approach.

The next question, and the pity of this programme is that no questions were asked, is what does he say to them?

In Private, In Public was inadvertently illuminating. Apart from round the world yachmen (who talk to themselves) I have not seen a lonelier looking man.

## Franco's wash-out

Tom Sutcliffe on Zeffirelli's waterlogged film of Otello



Plácido Domingo often magnificent



Kasia Riedorrelli visually charming

swamped, flooded with water. You can't practically hear the chorus or much of the music, and everybody is dripping with rain.

Bolton says it's a stormy night: Zeffirelli films a Mediterranean monsoon day. Everybody rushes around getting wetter and wetter, and Domingo launches into the Esultate from the side of his ship almost at the dockside.

Naturelism never extends to the musical performance; the voices overwhelm the orchestra, which is itself artificially distorted and rebalanced so that it approximates to film music (with expressive cellos accompanying Otello's jealous entry later on magnified to great proportions).

Rather more serious is Zeffirelli's interpretive distortion of the value of the central love relationship. The great dust, Gie nella notte densa, concluding with "Ancora un bacio," means for Verdi end for us spectators that Otello and Desdemona's affair in the first act of the opera is flawless. Zeffirelli's aspersions are mere wishful thinking on his part.

But the film-maker can and does shatter that confidence with a glance, before the dust, that tells us Otello is already jealous — that

his sense of perfect love, not lego's cynicism, is wishful thinking. The dust, evidently, is why Prince Urban Bertrami was cast in (but does not sing) the part of Cassio, a blonde Roman son of an ancient aristocratic house. Bertrami physically resembles Kasia Riedorrelli — and this, Zeffirelli feels, helps to exploit Otello's so speedy suspicions.

Of course it also allows the film-maker, in a cutaway during lego's description of Cassio's overhead "Dream" about Desdemona, to linger with carnal exaggeration over Barberini's naked torso. As so often in the film, one has the sense of artificiality. The conflict of emotions is dissipated in loose and flaccid hypnagogia.

It is typical, sadly, that such an important detail as Otello's mimicking of lego early in the second act ("But what should I be thinking?") is out and that the great concluding concertato of act 3 is bowdlerised. It is, admittedly, a moment of suspended cognition by

the assembled characters that scarcely fits the naturalistic term of this film — though Zeffirelli allows himself plenty of romantic hyperbole in the presentation of various famous scenes.

Otello weeps up and down long stairways: lego declares his Credo into a vertiginous circular courtyard; the first love duet with Desdemona takes place in or on bed after an interpolated wedding-feet; the handkerchief dialogue involves much peering through a Moorish screen; Desdemona makes great play in the final act with her (recently used) wedding-dress, pressing its whiteness to her face like a mother in a soap-powder ad.

Most tastelessly of all, after the final chords of the opera, Zeffirelli reprises the music for "one last kiss" as the end credits roll. Instead of the shock of Verdi's last word as written, we get a sort of dewy atmospheric romance.

Musical merits are mixed. It is hard to judge Mazzel's work as he is not, in the film, conducting the opera. Verdi wrote. Domingo sounds often magnificent, with the familiar richness of that superb instrument; the highlight, and the best filmed Domingo sequence, is Diol mi potrei scagliar. Justino Diaz's lego looks suitably urbane and sinister at the same time, and sounds appropriately dark — but does not terrify with his Credo. Kasia Riedorrelli makes a visually charming Desdemona, but her singing is more husky than pure. The rest of the singing, dubbed on to actors' performances, is adequate.

But this is not the musical experience opera-goers know. Whether it will thrill non-musical film buffs is another matter.

Michael Billington hails a dazzling new production by Trevor Nunn at Stratford's Swan Theatre

thinness in Heywood's material towards the end of the evening; but what he has done is to apply elements of the English popular tradition, from panto to ballad-opera, to an Elizabethan-Jacobean piece.

An irreverent tone is established from the start when Joe Melie steps before us to announce "O, for a muse of fire," is booed and trise instead "In Troy there lies the scene," and is greeted with rotten apples and cries of "Give us The Fair Maid"; at this point Imelde Steunton steps serving at table and breezily agrees to play Bess Bridges from memory.

This immediately establishes the play's element of wish-fulfilment (it's a tavern-girl's dream) and its contemporary popularity while hinting at the way the company will be deployed throughout the building — as spectators, harricars and rumbling, chauvinistic commentators.

But why the production works is

that it uses a good deal of sophistication to create simple-seeming effects. When Bess takes to sea, for instance, John Nepler's design suddenly transforms the whole Swan stage into a ship: ropes are tethered to the rail running round the stage, a couple of canvas-sheets become two sails, benches and trestle-tables are arranged in step-formation to suggest multi-levelled decks.

It is infinitely more exciting than multi-million pound hi-tech design because it involves the spectator in an act of imaginative participation; and, when Bess's ship grepples with a Spanish galleon, a handful of musketeers fired into the Swan galleries and one actor swinging across the stage on a rope instantly convinces us we are in the midst of a sea-battle.

You can hear Heywood's own invention flagging in the second half, set largely in the Moroccan court; and, once Bess and Spencer have been reunited, there is an air

of desperate contrivance as they fend off their regal suitors through the use of the bed-trick.

But Nunn keeps the ball in the air by treating this act as pure pantomime with Joe Melie playing the King of Fez as a nervous despot constantly upstaged by the band and his two Bashaws. Donald McBride as Bess's Buttons-like servant even leads us in an audience-participation number, and Imelde Staunton, whose Bess is a lovely study in downright affection and Sean Bean as her fair-banks-like lover, hit the right note of careless rapture. (In Mr Bean's case, shinning down a rope, it's almost careless rapture.)

No masterpiece has been unveiled. But what Mr Nunn has done, with the help of Shaun Davey's score and excellent fight by Malcolm Ransom, is to rescue from the shadows a piece that shows just how much went out of our theatre when it became polite, genteel and middleclass.

## BOOKS

### Raising the Titanic again

THE TITANIC, by Michael Douie (Bodley Head, £12.95).

FEW can have had more right to say "I told you so" than the retired merchant navy officer who wrote a short story in 1898 about a huge liner called the Titen hitting an iceberg. The tale was a warning against the reckless contemporary dismissal of the unparalleled danger from ice at sea, rather than the hubris implicit in overstretching current technology.

But life's uncannily detailed imitation of art when the Titen struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage 14 years later is still the best-narrated single disaster of the Western world, with a permanent place in Anglo-Saxon culture as metaphor and myth.

Just as the ship seems set to sail over the horizon of folk-memory someone recalls it. There was Walter Lord's gripping 1955 book with its wondrously understated title, A Night to Remember; Lord Grede with his financial disaster movie Raise the Titanic, of which he ruefully said, "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic;" or, more seriously, the recent American discovery of the ship's resting-place by today's advanced technology. There is also a Titanic Historical Society Inc., in Manchester, still publishing its quarterly.

Those familiar with Michael Davies's former Sunday Journalism will not be surprised that his book on the tragedy reads extremely well and is the product of thorough research into all aspects of the world's largest liner to the discovery of its grave three-quarters of a century later.

Mr Davies's book was already off the press when the American

oceanographer exploded the theory that the Titanic's flank was torn open for 300 of its 880 feet in the collision. The hull crumpled like the side of a car, it now appears, when the 48,000-ton ship side-swiped the great iceberg at upwards of 20 knots — bash, not gash. The story still has no tidy ending.

She was not alone in having too few lifeboats and undersized watertight bulkheads. Contrary to

Dan van der Vat on the myths and realities of a famous disaster

one of the many legends which arose, neither her builders nor her owners claimed she was "unsinkable."

But her master, Captain Ernest Smith, should not have pounded along at night after several red warnings of icebergs, even though he altered course to the south. He also skipped the usual Sunday morning lifeboat drill, which might have ensured that such boats as existed were filled to capacity when launched.

Captain Stanley Lord (no relation of the Californian, a British cargo-liner, sensibly have to fur the entire night in the same neo because of the ice. Inexplicably, however, he failed to respond until dawn to a series of distress rockets from the Titanic spotted by his crew. By the time he sailed for the scene, an hour or two away, the Carpathia (Captain Arthur Rostron) had picked up the 705 survivors and 1,522 people were dead.

Rostron became a hero, Lord was excoriated, although the case against him would have drawn a

## Mortal men

By David McKie

THE OXFORD BOOK OF POLITICAL ANECDOTES, edited by Paul Johnson (OUP, £10.95).

THE ten ministers who lost their jobs in Mrs Thatcher's autumn clearance had every reason to feel sore about their fate. But at least they were spared the humiliations which sometimes attended such dismissals in the past.

Lord North, for instance, sacked Charles James Fox in 1774 with a letter which simply said: "His Majesty has thought proper to order a new Commission of the Treasury to be made out, in which I do not see your name"; an exercise in the heroically leonine which can rarely have been matched until the premiership of Attlee, who when asked by one of his victims why exactly he was to be dismissed, replied: "Afraid you're not up to it."

Even that seems positively kind compared when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham, challenged the decision to dispose of him (they did sometimes change Lord Chancellors in those days). "It would be difficult," Melbourne conceded "to point to any marked delinquency. I will, however, tell you that in my opinion, you dominated too much with other departments, you encroached upon the provinces of the Prime Minister, you worked, as I believe, with the Press in a manner unbecoming to the dignity of your station, and you formed political views of your own and pursued them by your colleagues which were unfair to your colleagues."

language. . . But he added that he hoped that this incident would in no way interfere with their friendship.

The Oxford Book of Political Anecdotes is meant to be savoured at leisure. But one test of any such enterprise is how often it comes up with apposite tales like these to adorn contemporary events. There are already abundant signs that the Oxford Book will be repeatedly and gleefully pilloled.

Take Mrs Thatcher's reported concern that the next major episcopal appointment should do something to redress the effect of the choice that was made at Durham: Mr Johnson won't let you down there either. Walpole, he records, would ask of a likely bishop not in Mrs Thatcher's favourite formula — "Is he one of us?" but, still more brutally, "Is he mortal?" In other words could he be bought?

Lord Halsbury, Salisbury's Lord Chancellor, often accused of misuse of patronage, was asked whether *ceteris paribus*, he'd appoint the best man available to some legal post: "Ceteris paribus he's damned," he replied, "I'm going to appoint my nephew."

Adam Smith, according to Johnson, once went out into his garden in his dressing gown, set off down the path, and inadvertently walked to Dunfermline, some 15 miles away. But even that cannot match the poignancy of Lord Salisbury's retirement: when the King presented him with a signed photograph of himself — a signed honour — Salisbury, scrutinised it for a while, shook his head, and mournfully observed: "Poor Buller."

## The world of Jane Austen

By Christopher Driver

THE JANE AUSTEN HANDBOOK, edited by J. David Grey (Athlone Press, £29.50).

IT IS a rash man who describes affinity between Jane Austen and Mozart these days, unless it is for a bout of less-majestic as is Amis. It may still be worth wondering what it is in our own perceptions that gives us an inextinguishable appetite for the fates and trivia of both: not just the dark period of neglect that followed their early deaths nor the happier survival of consistently amusing letters to read against the works; but chiefly the curious internal smile that steals up on an admirer who has read and reread, heard and re-heard, enough to coll up at will a delightfully turned phrase from a moogley memory.

But even the most capacious memory needs help, and here are 500 pages of "handbook" to Jane Austen. Subtract 100 for Abigail Bok's painstaking concordance of proper names throughout the whole Austen corpus, from Volume the First to Persuasion, and we are still left with 64 essays of uneven length and merit, solicited by the (American) editor from scholars and dilettanti on both sides of the Atlantic.

Have you wondered whether Jane's letters were more or less efficiently delivered than our own, or how to play Speculation? In-quire within, but do not necessarily expect an answer. For Mr

Grey's easy-going system, so of a Bingley smooch editors, is to let the great spread themselves and to let the email or the busy get away with little more than long footnotes on their chosen topics.

The first half of this policy works better than might be feared. David Lodge (on Form and Structure) and John Bayly (on Characterisation) show again how hard they find it to be boring or unoriginal. And though feminist criticism has certainly brought new life into Austen studies, Edward Copeland's piece on the "consumer revolution" of her time does more, with dowries and settlements and purchases of carriages or pianos, to bring out the counterpoint of feminine predicament and masculine opportunity for the other way around. It all makes the sex war of the 1800s not less cruel, but certainly more intelligible, than it was.

In case you ask, the Food and Drink essay knows what white soup is but cannot rise to the subtlety of the signals Jane Austen hoists in this language. On Music, Patrick Piggott reminds us that although she was silent on the pianoforte, she possessed no Mozart and very little Haydn. This would only be surprising if we could be confident that our favourite present-day female novelists would appear to better advantage, either for facility or contemporary taste.

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## *Luton win Thatcher's support in anti-hooligan campaign*

8,114 runs for England. He hit 151 centuries and was not out 162 times.

**BOYCOTT'S** departure came in a week that saw a rare cricketing event, a tied Test match. It came in the opening match of the Test series between India and Australia. In Madras when Meninder Singh was out lbw to Matthews off the penultimate ball of the match with the scores level. India at one stage needed only 18 runs from the last five overs with four wickets in hand. Details: Australia, 674 for seven dec, and 170 for five dec, India 397 and 347.

The range of feelings over Boycott, particularly over what some saw as a private obsession with rummaging possibly against the interests of the team were perhaps summed up in two contrasting comments from a former teammate, Fred Trueman, the England pace bowler. In 1976 Trueman told at one stage: "Boycott must not only return as an opener but he should take over as England captain." Six years later he said: "Yorkshire should have sacked Boycott 10 years ago."

Now 45, Boycott has had a prolific career. In 1,014 innings he has hit 49,426 runs at an overall

JAPANESE touring rugby union teams suffered two defeats in Scotland last week but continued to show the sort of improvement in their games that could eventually make them a problem in the inaugural World Cup next year. In the midweek the stronger finishing of an Edinburgh side overwhelmed the Japanese 26-14 after the tourists had led 10-7 at half-time. But in the tougher arena of international rugby they again lacked weight and height in losing 33-10 to Scotland at Murrayfield. But they did score three tries, including one directly from scrum through clear head and swift passing.

f overage of 59.93, with a record

## RESULTS

0 Stirling 0, Raith 6; St Johnstone 3, Queen's Park 0;  
1 Stirling 1, Stenhousemuir 0; Stranraer 1, Cowden-  
2 beat 1. Landing positions: 1, Alva (p8, p15);  
3 Raith (p8, p12); 3, Meadowbank (p8, p12).

early in the second round and had the champion stumbling about the ring and holding on. He never allowed Curry to dominate, even in the clinches, where the American can be a master of destructiveness.

Curry caught the challenge with a hard right in the fourth round, and as Honeyghan clinched to clear his head the champion worried corner-man howled for their man to finish off the impudent Briton.

But Honeyghan punched his way out of trouble, and in the fifth round had the champion stumbling backwards across the ring. By now Curry's corner had lost its confident air.

In the middle of the sixth round Curry's business manager rushed to the ringside crying "the champion's cut" as he saw his multi-million-dollar plans for future fights beginning to vanish. Honeygham was punching Curry almost at will, and the champion was half-blinded by his own blood that splashed on to the Briton's

Duff had flown in just before the fight from Miami incensed by the referee's and judges' treatment of another of his fighters, Cornell Boza-Edwarde, who had lost one on Saturday in Miami on points against Hector Camacho, the W

Camecho often boxed on retreat as Boze-Edwarde plodded forward and wee flattered by scoring, 118-119, 116-112, and ridiculous 120-108.

The unbeaten Honeyhugh, 26, was a 6-1 underdog against the previously unbeaten Curry, who is a year younger, but at a stroke the British, European, and Common-

wealth champion demolished Curry, became Britain's second current world champion, and one of only two undisputed world champions, the other being the middleweight Mervellous Marvin Hagler.

The Jemelman-born Londoner had been regarded as a lamb to the slaughter, but by the time he fought Curry to retire the American had a long, deep cut under his left eyebrow and a bloody nose. As the corner with his face a mask of blood. The referees, Octavio Mayrom, of Mexico, called in two doctors to examine Curry's eye, and they decided at once that he

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aged to restrict his  
the use of clubs.

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26



# TRENCHERMAN HAMPERS

<p><b>Aik Royal</b> £15.00</p> <p>Soave, Italian White, 1 bottle Vino della Toscana, 1 bottle Muscatel de Sèze et de la Loire, 1 bottle Côte de Rhône, Rhône Red, 1 bottle Marsal Fine Sherry from Valdadorno, 1 bottle Smith Woodhouse Late Bottled Vintage Port, 1 bottle</p> <p>Walton's Shortbread Fingers, 5 oz. Walton's Sultanae, 12 oz. Bendicks Cocoa Dusted Almonds, 7 oz. Epicure Apple Sauce, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz. JA Sharwood Pork and Duck Liver Pate with Port, 6 oz. Baxters Raspberry Jam, 12 oz. Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb. Le Gourmet Gascon Tournaison Conserve, 4 1/2 lb. Jacksons Lapsang Souchong Tea, 4 oz. Epicure Tomatoes, 8 oz. Furness of Cornwall Lemon Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard, 5 oz. Le Gourmet Gascon Crème d'Asperges Semp, 4 1/2 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Rialto Harlequin Pralines, 5 oz. JA Sharwood Tomato and Chili Chutney, 10 oz. Sea King Portuguese Sausage in oil, 3 1/2 lb. Derwent Onions, 7 oz. Epicure Flageolet Beans, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Epicure Chocolate Biscuits, 7 oz. Microbeau Biscuits, 12 oz. Bendicks Classic Plain Chocolate Assortment, 1 lb. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Epicure French Glace Clementines, 10 1/2 oz. Sea King Macaroni in tomato, 7 oz. Baxters Apple Jam, 12 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Faulstich Marston Glace, 5 oz. tin Sea King South American Pickles in tomato, 15 oz. Epicure Pen Mince, 1 lb. Le Gourmet Gascon Brique de Homard (concentrated), 4 1/2 lb. William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hine Cognac, 2 lb. Epicure Assorted French Glace Fruits, 10 1/2 oz. Percy Dalton's Pate de Foie, 5 oz. Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Mince, 8 oz. Furness of Cornwall Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Chocoma Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz. Walton's Highland Cakes, 14 oz. tin William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Scotch Whisky, 2 lb. Bendicks Grape in Brandy Chocolate, 7 oz. JA Sharwood Peach Chutney, 11 1/2 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. JA Sharwood Mango Slices, 13 1/2 oz. Microbeau Pate de Foie, 5 oz. Percy Dalton's Smoked Almonds, 5 oz. JA Sharwood Liver Pate with Green Peppercorns, 4 oz. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz. Baxters Sweet and Sour Cook-in-Sauce, 15 oz. Le Gourmet Gascon Sauce de Poissons (concentrated), 4 1/2 lb. JA Sharwood Artichoke Hearts, 14 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. JA Sharwood Bengal Hot Chutney, 12 1/2 oz. Epicure Smoked Oysters, 3 1/2 lb. JA Sharwood Black Cherries, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Pate de Foie, 5 oz. Country Way Bitter Orange Marmalade with Pure Malt Whisky, 8 oz. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 2 lb.</p>	<p><b>Monarch</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Fasting Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Chocolate Farfalli Old Fashioned Orange and Brandy Fudge, 5 oz. Epicure Pacific Sunset Mince, 3 1/2 lb. Baxters Strawberry Jam, 12 oz. Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz. Epicure Honeyed Dessert Figs, 8 1/2 oz. Jacksons Earl Grey Tea, 20 bags Epicure Rose and Lemon Turkish Delight, 7 oz. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Lemon Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Baxters Rhubarb and Ginger Jam, 12 oz. Chocoma Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz. Percy Dalton's Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb. Baxters Blackcurrant Jam, 12 oz. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Bendicks Almond Dimples, 5 oz. Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz. Country Way Seville Orange Marmalade, 8 oz.</p> <p><b>Nelson</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Fasting Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Bendicks Crème de Menthe Chocolate, 7 oz. JA Sharwood Mince Pie, 14 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Epicure Fruit Cocktail in natural juice, 7 oz. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. JA Sharwood Pate de Foie, 5 oz. Country Way Bitter Orange Marmalade with Pure Malt Whisky, 8 oz. Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz. Baxters Sweet and Sour Cook-in-Sauce, 15 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Pasten Assorted Continental Chocolate, 10 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Plum Chutney, 10 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Onions, 7 oz. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz.</p> <p><b>Exeter</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Fasting Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Bendicks Cocoa Dusted Almonds, 7 oz. Epicure Apple Sauce, 6 oz. Sea King Portuguese Sausage in oil, 3 1/2 lb. Epicure Strawberry Jam, 12 oz. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz. Baxters Rhubarb and Ginger Jam, 12 oz. Le Gourmet Gascon Tournaison Conserve, 4 1/2 lb. Furness of Cornwall Lemon Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Pasten Assorted Continental Chocolate, 10 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Plum Chutney, 10 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Onions, 7 oz. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz.</p>	<p><b>Beilast</b> £15.00</p> <p>Marsala Gilt Dimples, 10 1/2 oz. Côte de Rhône, Rhône Red, 1 bottle Marsal Fine Sherry, Valdadorno, 1 bottle Côte de Rhône Blanc, Ponnella, 1 bottle Furness of Cornwall Gingerbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Malt Whisky, 2 lb. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 1 lb. JA Sharwood Mince Pie, 14 oz. Epicure Red Sockeye Salmon, 3 1/2 lb. Epicure Mandarin Segments, 12 oz. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz. Microbeau Mousse de Vierge d'Orléans, 10 1/2 oz. Baxters Rhubarb and Ginger Jam, 12 oz. Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz. Baxters Sweet and Sour Cook-in-Sauce, 15 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Galatea</b> £15.00</p> <p>Walton's Hazelnut Biscuits, 5 oz. Epicure Rose and Lemon Turkish Delight, 7 oz. Epicure Redcurrant Jelly, 12 oz. Epicure Skipjack Tuna Fish in oil, 3 1/2 lb. JA Sharwood Mango Slices, 13 1/2 oz. Microbeau Casserole with Pork, 13 1/2 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Australian Set Honey, 1 lb. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Shearwater</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Walton's Dundee Cake, 12 oz. Epicure Rose and Lemon Turkish Delight, 7 oz. Percy Dalton's Peanuts and Raisins, 3 1/2 lb. Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Mince, 8 oz. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 2 lb. Furness of Cornwall Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Epicure Honeyed Dessert Figs, 8 1/2 oz. Epicure Pacific Sunset Mince, 3 1/2 lb. Bendicks Victorian Orange Chocolate, 8 oz.</p>	<p><b>Galatea</b> £15.00</p> <p>Walton's Hazelnut Biscuits, 5 oz. Epicure Rose and Lemon Turkish Delight, 7 oz. Epicure Redcurrant Jelly, 12 oz. Epicure Skipjack Tuna Fish in oil, 3 1/2 lb. JA Sharwood Mango Slices, 13 1/2 oz. Microbeau Casserole with Pork, 13 1/2 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Australian Set Honey, 1 lb. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Victory</b> £15.00</p> <p>Walton's Shortbread Fingers, 5 oz. Walton's Dundee Cake, 12 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Pate de Foie, 5 oz. Country Way Seville Orange Marmalade, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Yorktown</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Lemon Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p>	<p><b>Thunderer</b> £15.00</p> <p>Tutors of the Art of Living, 12 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Rodney</b> £15.00</p> <p>Walton's Chocolate Chip Biscuits, 5 oz. Walton's Rich Fruit Cake, 14 oz. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Oberon</b> £15.00</p> <p>Walton's Almond Shortcake Biscuits, 5 oz. William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Malt Whisky, 2 lb. Bendicks Biscuits, 12 oz. JA Sharwood Plum Chutney, 10 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Uganda</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. Bendicks Almond Dimples, 5 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz. Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz. Country Way Gascon Sauce de Poissons, 4 1/2 lb. Baxters Tarragon Scotch Vegetable Soup, 15 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz. Bendicks Chocolate and Liqueur Assorted Chocolates, 8 1/2 oz. JA Sharwood Apple and Sage Jelly, 6 oz. Sea King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. Derwent Turkey Stroganoff, 15 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Tarragon Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz. JA Sharwood Sealed Ham, 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>Quiberon</b> £15.00</p> <p>Chocolate Farfalli Old Fashioned Chocolate Fudge, 5 oz. Percy Dalton's Assorted Nuts &amp; Fruit, 8 oz. Baxters Wild Bramble Jam, 12 oz. Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz. Jacksons Lapsang Souchong Tea, 4 oz. Walton's Oriental Honey Biscuits, 5 oz. Country Way Bitter Orange Marmalade with Malt Whisky, 8 oz. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 2 lb. Pasten Continental Chocolate, 10 1/2 oz. Walton's Stem Ginger Biscuits, 5 oz. Walton's Rich Fruit Cake, 14 oz.</p> <p><b>Pointe</b> £15.00</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Gingerbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz. William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Malt Whisky, 2 lb. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. JA Sharwood Green Label Mango Chutney, 8 1/2 oz. Epicure Peas, 1 lb. JA Sharwood Mince Pie, 14 oz. JA Sharwood Mince Pie, 14 oz. Percy Dalton's Tropical Fruit &amp; Nut Mix, 10 oz. 2 jars Microbeau Calma de Foie de Volaille, 2 1/2 oz. each Country Way Lemon Cheese with Dry Sherry, 8 oz. Bendicks traditional Christmas Pudding, 2 lb. Baxters Biscuits, 12 oz. Faulstich Chestnut Pate, 12 1/2 oz.</p>	<p><b>Howe</b> £15.00</p> <p>Wild Scottish Smoked Salmon, 1 lb. hand-alked Muscatel de Sèze et de la Loire, 1 bottle</p>
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1. These prices apply to the Christmas 1986 season. Deliveries begin in October. Prices include carriage within the United Kingdom mainland. Orders must reach us by December 6th to ensure delivery by Christmas.

2. We can accept Dinners Club, Visa/Tiustand Access credit card payments, providing that the following details are included:

- Credit Card account number
- Signature of the cardholder
- Billing address of the cardholder
- Expiry Date of the credit card
- Full name of the cardholder

Payment may also be made by cheque or money order. If payment is made in a FOREIGN CURRENCY or with a cheque bearing NO BRITISH ADDRESS, £5.00 must be added to cover bank charges.

3. Please include your own card if you would like your personal greetings to be sent with the hamper. In the case of a multiple order, do make sure that you put in which card is to go with which parcel. If you would like us to send one of our own cards, please tell us the message that you would like us to write.

4. We will replace, free of charge, any item which is lost, or damaged to an unusable degree, in transit. Your notification of such loss or damage must be given within seven days of receipt of the parcel if applicable (or whilst every effort will be made to supply the exact goods, we have to reserve the right to make substitutions of similar or higher quality goods in the event of an unexpected supply failure conflicting with requirements of expedient delivery).

5. Our prices are inclusive of all current United Kingdom domestic taxes and duty.

**TRENCHERMAN HAMPERS • Hurst House • Hurst • Reading • Berkshire RG10 0SH • U.K.**  
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## Syrian diplomat 'aided'



THE WEEK IN BRITAIN

by James Lewis

## Kinnock kicks Labour into line

If party unity could win elections, to some of the contents of which emerged this week, is likely to be a continuation of the last. The House of Commons, Mr John Patten, set out the new chairman of the BBC. Mrs Thatcher is convinced that the corporation is in the hands of a

Vol. 135 No. 15 Week ending October 12, 1986

## Information from the disinformers

THE US Administration, ought out by Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post* in lying to the media about supposed plans to attack Libya's Gaddafi (see page 17), is to set up an office to expose Soviet efforts to mislead world opinion about American foreign policy. Some people might say, having read the Post story, that the White House and State Department were quite capable of misleading the world about American foreign policy in their own right. But, in any case, will anybody now believe what the new Office of Disinformation, Analysis and Responses actually says?



White House press spokesman Larry Speakes — "forked tongue".

The Washington Post

## Caught Out In Lying

ALMOST ALL of government public information is an attempt not just to tell people objectively what is going on, but to make people believe one thing or another. This is an accepted form of government activity in the public arena — a way of bargaining, vying for advantage, putting a certain face on things, trying to work your will. Bluff, threat and "psychological war" are staples of both domestic politics and foreign policy. Journalists know it, expect it, deal with it every day by their attitude of skepticism and their technique of inquiry and pursuit. They pride themselves on their ability to break through the government's masks and pretences and to keep themselves from being used.

So what is different about the Reagan administration's effort revealed on page 17 to use the American press to destabilize the Libyan regime of Muammar Gaddafi? The word "disinformation" was used in a White House memo outlining the strategy, and in some newspapers last August there appeared stories taking at face value private official reports that opposition to Col. Gaddafi was brewing and a second American attack was in the works. Almost immediately, however, some press scepticism was evident. The Post, for instance, noted that there was "some suggestion that the United States is trying to psyche out the Libyan strongman by fomenting anxiety about what this country is planning." In any event, nothing too particular happened.

Continued on page 10



The Blackpool tea party

## The Tories could still win

The Labour Party will fight the next election on a platform of unilateral nuclear disarmament, it declared last week, an issue that helped it to lose the last election. (Reports, pages 3, 4, 6.)

THE CONSERVATIVES have the means, the motive, and the opportunity to win themselves a third election. The means? Their electoral machine is in fair shape. They start with the enormous advantage of a huge majority to defend. They can choose the date of the next election. They have the great asset of government, which means they can dictate the political agenda. The motive? Mrs Thatcher wants the elusive bat-trick. She may even believe the current conceit that there is a three-term revolution. Certainly, a third Thatcher term would give her the chance to leave a more indelible Thatcherite imprint than has yet been achieved. What's more, it could spell an end to Labour hopes of winning an outright majority in the foreseeable future. And the opportunity? Look no further than the latest Observer/Harris poll, confirming that in spite of all that has gone wrong for them this year, the Tories are gradually strengthening in the polls at the expense of the Alliance. That 38 per cent poll rating (with

Labour 41 and the Alliance 20) will do very nicely to be going on with.

There is, of course, a less complacent case to be made. That the revival is illusory, because it underestimates the Alliance's electoral base. Wait for the wounds of East-torism to heal and the softness of the Tory vote will be revealed once more, they say. That the Labour Party at 41 per cent and in roseate blush is looking like an election winner once again. That Mrs Thatcher, for so long a political asset to her party, now so irritates the voters that she has become a liability. That the party itself is tired of government and increasingly preoccupied

Bomb disposal problem for Labour... page 4

with marginalia. That the party workers around the land are uneasy and critical. That the best talents (Messrs Heelstone, Britten, Parkinson, Prior) and some pretty fair ones too (Raisson, Young, Heyhoe) are on the outside when they ought to be on the inside. That the Thatcher revolution has become an unguided missile, abandoning water privatisation and diluting social

security reform, but fixated suddenly and arbitrarily on football hooliganism, drugs, or booze showing men in bed together. In short, that its hour has gone.

Well, maybe it has. We certainly hope so. But there are certain stubborn realities about the political contest of the next eighteen months that impose agnostic caution. Nobody yet knows how defence is going to impact upon British politics in that period, especially as the Trafalgar on the Reykjavik. But it is at least a respectable empirical thought that the combination of Labour's non-nuclear stance and the division of the SDP-Liberal Alliance may well lead to the Tories' political advantage. It is at least arguable that a society in which millions flock to the share issues of privatised industries, and in which millions more are doing nicely out of the current pay surge is not going to be a society which cheers or redemptive tax plan. And it is always worth reminding yourself, after a weekend of spending announcements and hints, just how much more quickly a government can take a political initiative than any opposition. There are problems at Bournemouth, yes. But plenty of opportunities, too.

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# TRENCHERMAN HAMPERS

Ark Royal £175.00	Monarch £150.00	Belfast £150.00	Gaitea £150.00	Shearwater £150.00
<p>Soave, Italian White, 1 bottle</p> <p>Valpolicella, Italian Red, 1 bottle</p> <p>Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine, Loire White, 1 bottle</p> <p>Côtes du Rhône, Rhône Red, 1 bottle</p> <p>Marble Fino Sherry from Valdespino, 1 bottle</p> <p>Smith Woodhouse Late Bottled Vintage Port, 1 bottle</p> <p>Walker's Shortbread Fingers, 5 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Sultana Cake, 12 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Cocoa Ousted Almonds, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Apple Sauce, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peach Slices in natural juice, 7 oz.</p> <p>Derwent Turkey Sturgeon, 15 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Pork and Duck Liver Pâté with Fruit, 6 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Raspberry Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Seafood Dressing, 140 ml.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Tourain Gascon Soup (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>Jacksons Lapang Southing Tea, 4 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Tomatoes, 8 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Lemon Biscuits, 10 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Tomato and Chilli Chutney, 10 oz.</p> <p>See King Portugal Sausages in oil, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Derwent Ox Tongue, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Chocolate Beans, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Bacon and Eggs, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Classic Plain Chocolate Assortment, 8 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Burgundy Wine Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 14 oz.</p> <p>Epicure French Chalk Clementines, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Mackerel in tomato, 7 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Apple Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Potatoes, 15 pieces</p> <p>Bastards' Marmos Glace, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King South American Pickled in tomato, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Brique de Homard (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hina Cognac, 2 lb.</p> <p>Epicure Assorted French Glacé Fruits, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Pistachio Ice, 5 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Brandy, 8 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Biscuits and Spice Biscuits, 14 oz.</p> <p>Chocomer Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Highland Omelette, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Scotch Whisky, 2 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Grapes in Brandy Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Peach Chutney, 11 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Seafood Cocktail, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Potted Pheasant, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Fricassee of Almonds, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Lard in Pâté with Green Peppercorns, 6 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Roast Beef, 12 oz.</p> <p>Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Sweet and Sour Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Soupe de Poisson (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Apple Sauce, 5 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Butter, 8 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Baked Ham, 12 1/2 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Black Chutney, 15 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Pheasant Pie with White Wine, 6 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Butter Orange Marmalade with Pure Malt Whisky, 8 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Traditional Christmas Pudding 2 lb.</p>	<p>Furness of Cornwall Frying Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 12 oz.</p> <p>Chocolata Parfait Old Fashioned Orange and Brandy Pudding, 5 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Pacific Sunset Mince, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Strawberry Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Matthew Walker Mince with Brandy, 12 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Honeyed Dessert Figs, 8 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Jacksons Earl Grey Tea, 20 bags</p> <p>Epicure Rose and Lemon Turkish Delight, 7 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Traditional Christmas Pudding, 1 lb.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Seafood Dressing, 140 ml.</p> <p>Walker's Sultana Cake, 12 oz.</p> <p>Chocomer Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Dry Roasted Peanuts, 5 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 12 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Almond Shortbread Rings, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Seafood Dressing, 140 ml.</p> <p>Bastards' Tartan Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Smoked Oysters, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Tomato and Chilli Chutney, 10 oz.</p> <p>See King Portugal Sausages in oil, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Derwent Ox Tongue, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Chocolate Beans, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Bacon and Eggs, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Classic Plain Chocolate Assortment, 8 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Burgundy Wine Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 14 oz.</p> <p>Epicure French Chalk Clementines, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Mackerel in tomato, 7 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Apple Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Potatoes, 15 pieces</p> <p>Bastards' Marmos Glace, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King South American Pickled in tomato, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Brique de Homard (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hina Cognac, 2 lb.</p> <p>Epicure Assorted French Glacé Fruits, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Pistachio Ice, 5 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Brandy, 8 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Biscuits and Spice Biscuits, 14 oz.</p> <p>Chocomer Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Highland Omelette, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Scotch Whisky, 2 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Grapes in Brandy Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Peach Chutney, 11 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Seafood Cocktail, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Potted Pheasant, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Fricassee of Almonds, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Lard in Pâté with Green Peppercorns, 6 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Roast Beef, 12 oz.</p> <p>Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Sweet and Sour Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Soupe de Poisson (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Apple Sauce, 5 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Butter, 8 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Baked Ham, 12 1/2 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Black Chutney, 15 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Pheasant Pie with White Wine, 6 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Butter Orange Marmalade with Pure Malt Whisky, 8 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Traditional Christmas Pudding 2 lb.</p>	<p>Nestlé's Citrus Marmalade, 1984/5, 1 bottle</p> <p>Martell Fino Sherry, Valpolicella, 1 bottle</p> <p>Côtes du Rhône, Rhône Red, 1 bottle</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Gingerbread Biscuits, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hina Cognac, 2 lb.</p> <p>Epicure Red Sockeye Salmon, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Seafood Dressing, 140 ml.</p> <p>Epicure Smoked Oysters, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Tomato and Chilli Chutney, 10 oz.</p> <p>See King Portugal Sausages in oil, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Derwent Ox Tongue, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Chocolate Beans, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Bacon and Eggs, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Classic Plain Chocolate Assortment, 8 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Burgundy Wine Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 14 oz.</p> <p>Epicure French Chalk Clementines, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Mackerel in tomato, 7 oz.</p> 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Pie, 14 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Seafood Dressing, 140 ml.</p> <p>Bastards' Tartan Cream of Chicken Soup, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Smoked Oysters, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Shortbread Biscuits, 7 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Bitter Mocha Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Shrimps in brine, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Tomato and Chilli Chutney, 10 oz.</p> <p>See King Portugal Sausages in oil, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Derwent Ox Tongue, 7 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Hagelbein Beans, 1 lb.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Cherry Chocolate Biscuits, 10 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Chocolate Beans, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Bacon and Eggs, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Classic Plain Chocolate Assortment, 8 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Burgundy Wine Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Dundee Cake, 14 oz.</p> <p>Epicure French Chalk Clementines, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Mackerel in tomato, 7 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Apple Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Potatoes, 15 pieces</p> <p>Bastards' Marmos Glace, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King South American Pickled in tomato, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Brique de Homard (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hina Cognac, 2 lb.</p> <p>Epicure Assorted French Glacé Fruits, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Pistachio Ice, 5 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Brandy, 8 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Biscuits and Spice Biscuits, 14 oz.</p> <p>Chocomer Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Highland Omelette, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Scotch Whisky, 2 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Grapes in Brandy Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Peach Chutney, 11 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Seafood Cocktail, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Potted Pheasant, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Fricassee of Almonds, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood 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1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Mackerel in tomato, 7 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Apple Jam, 12 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Potatoes, 15 pieces</p> <p>Bastards' Marmos Glace, 5 oz.</p> <p>See King South American Pickled in tomato, 15 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Brique de Homard (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Hina Cognac, 2 lb.</p> <p>Epicure Assorted French Glacé Fruits, 10 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Pistachio Ice, 5 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Black Cherry Jam with Brandy, 8 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Instant Coffee, 3 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Furness of Cornwall Biscuits and Spice Biscuits, 14 oz.</p> <p>Chocomer Assorted Liqueur Chocolates, 9 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Walker's Highland Omelette, 14 oz.</p> <p>William Lusty Rich Fruit Cake with Scotch Whisky, 2 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Grapes in Brandy Chocolate, 7 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Peach Chutney, 11 1/2 oz.</p> <p>See King Thailand Seafood Cocktail, 7 oz.</p> <p>Alcoudoua Potted Pheasant, 13 1/2 oz.</p> <p>Percy Dalton's Fricassee of Almonds, 5 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Lard in Pâté with Green Peppercorns, 6 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Roast Beef, 12 oz.</p> <p>Matthew Walker Mince Pie, 14 oz.</p> <p>Bastards' Sweet and Sour Cook in Sauce, 15 oz.</p> <p>Le Gourmet Gascon Soupe de Poisson (concentrated), serves 4, 14 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Apple Sauce, 5 oz.</p> <p>Epicure Peas, 1 lb.</p> <p>Bendicks' Butter, 8 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Baked Ham, 12 1/2 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Black Chutney, 15 oz.</p> <p>JA Shawwood Pheasant Pie with White Wine, 6 oz.</p> <p>Country Way Butter Orange Marmalade with Pure Malt Whisky, 8 oz.</p> <p>Bendicks' Traditional Christmas Pudding 2 lb.</p>

1. These prices apply to the Christmas 1986 season. Deliveries begin in October. Prices include carriage within the United Kingdom mainland. Orders must reach us by December 8th to ensure delivery by Christmas.

2. We can accept Orders by Visa/Telnet and Access credit card payments, providing that the following details are included:

- Credit Card account number
- Signature of the cardholder
- Billing address of the cardholder
- Expiry Date of the credit card
- Full name of the cardholder

Payment may also be made by cheque or money order, if payment is made in FOREIGN CURRENCY or with a cheque bearing NO BRITISH ADDRESS. £5.00 must be added to cover bank clearance charges.

3. Please include your own card if you would like your personal greetings to be sent with the hamper. In the case of a multiple order, do make sure that you tell us which card is to go with which parcel. If you would like us to send one of our own cards, please tell us the message that you would like us to write.

4. We will replace, free of charge, any item which is lost, or damaged to an unusable degree, in transit. Your notification of such loss or damage must be given within seven days of receipt of the parcel if replacement (or refund) is to be considered.

5. Whilst every effort will be made to supply the exact goods, we have to reserve the right to make substitutions of similar or higher quality goods in the event of an unexpected supply failure conflicting with requirements of expedient delivery.

6. Our prices are inclusive of all current United Kingdom domestic taxes and duty.

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## Information from the disinformers

THE US Administration, caught out by Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post* in lying to the media about supposed plans to attack Libya's Gaddafi (see page 17), is to set up an office to expose Soviet efforts to mislead world opinion about American foreign policy. Some people might say, having read the *Post* story, that the White House and State Department were quite capable of misleading the world about American foreign policy in their own right. But, in any case, will anybody now believe what the new Office of Disinformation, Analysis and Response actually says?



White House press spokesman Larry Speakes — "forked tongue".

The Washington Post

## Caught Out In Lying

ALMOST ALL of government public information is an attempt not just to tell people objectively what is going on, but to make people believe one thing or another. This is an accepted form of government activity in the public arena — a way of bargaining, vying for advantage, putting a certain face on things, trying to work your will. Bluff, threat and "psychological war" are staples of both domestic politics and foreign policy. Journalists know it, expect it, deal with it every day by their attitude of scepticism and their techniques of inquiry and pursuit. They pride themselves on their ability to break through the government's masks and pretences and to keep themselves from being used.

So what is different about the Reagan administration's effort revealed on page 17 to use the American press to destabilize the Libyan regime of Moammar Gaddafi? The word "disinformation" was used in a White House memo outlining the strategy, and in some newspapers last August there appeared stories taking at face value private official reports that opposition to Col. Gaddafi was brewing and a second American attack was in the works. Almost immediately, however, some press scepticism was evident. The *Post*, for instance, noted that there was "some suggestion that the United States was trying to psyche out the Libyan strongman by fomenting anxiety about what this country is planning." In any event, nothing in particular happened.

Continued on page 10



The Blackpool tea party

## The Tories could still win

The Labour Party will fight the next election on a platform of unilateral nuclear disarmament. It decided last week, an issue that helped it to lose the last election. (Reprints, pages 3, 4, 5.)

THE CONSERVATIVES have the means, the motive, and the opportunity to win themselves a third election. The means? Their electoral machine is in fair shape. They start with the enormous advantage of a huge majority to defend. They have the data of the next election. They have the great asset of government, which means they can dictate the political agenda.

The motive? Mrs Thatcher wants the elusive hat-trick. She may even believe the current conceit that here is a three-term revolution. Certainly, a third Thatcher term would give her the chance to leave a more indelible Thatcherite imprint than has yet been achieved. What's more, it could spell an end to Labour's hopes of winning an outright majority in the foreseeable future. And the opportunity? Look no further than the latest Observer/Harris poll, confirming that in spite of all that has gone wrong for them this year, the Tories are gradually strengthening in the polls at the expense of the Alliance. That 38 per cent poll rating (with

Labour 41 and the Alliance 20) will do very nicely to be going on with.

There is, of course, a less complacent case to be made. That the revival is illusory, because it underestimates the Alliance's electoral base. What for the wounds of Eastbourne to heal and the softness of the Tory vote will be revealed once more, they say. That the Labour Party at 41 per cent and in rosette blue is looking like an election winner once again. That Mrs Thatcher, for so long a political asset to her party, now so irritates the voters that she has become a liability. That the party itself is tired of government and increasingly preoccupied

Bomb disposal problem for Labour... page 4

with marginalia. That the party workers around the land are uneasy and critical. That the best talents (Messrs Heseltine, Brittan, Parkinson, Prior) and some pretty fair ones too (Raison, Young, Heygate) are on the outside when they ought to be on the inside. That the Thatcher revolution has become an unguided missile, abandoning water privatisation and diluting social

security reform, but fixated suddenly and arbitrarily on football hooliganism, drugs, or booze showing men in bed together. In short, that its hour has gone.

Well, maybe it has. We certainly hope so. But there are certain stubborn realities about the political contest of the next eighteen months that impose agonistic caution. Nobody yet knows how defence is going to impact upon British politics in that period, especially as the trail winds on from Reykjavik. But it is at least a respectable empiricism to think that the combination of Labour's non-nuclear stance and the divisions of the SDP-Liberal Alliance may work to the Tories' political advantage. It is at least arguable that a society in which millions flock to the share issues of privatised industries, and in which millions more are doing nicely out of the current pay surge is not going to be a society which cheers to the echo every social ownership pledge or redistributive tax plan. And it is always worth reminding yourself, after a weekend of spending announcements and hints, just how much more quickly a government can take a political initiative than any opposition. There are problems at Bournemouth, yes. But plenty of opportunities, too.

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## Bomb disposal crisis for Labour

LABOUR'S non-nuclear defence strategy requires not only the dismantling of a number of individual decisions, but the reversal of an entire policy which has grown steadily over 40 years. There are no existing mechanisms for such a reversal, no procedures and few precedents. Labour will be confronting not a single powerful and permanent establishment, but a dozen establishments strongly opposed to some aspects of its policy.

A party seeking power will need to analyse in advance the kind of opposition to its policies which may be expected, both before and after an election.

The Oxford Research Group was asked by the Opposition Front Bench to do a preliminary study of the problems of implementation of Labour's defence policy. The study sets out the issues in Labour's defence policy, in order of the depth of opposition which they are likely to provoke, starting with the least contentious — the cancellation of Trident.

**TRIDENT:** The warhead programme for Trident is already far advanced, and has necessitated the building of a £300 million new facility at Aldermaston. There will certainly be irritation within the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence and the Strategic Systems Executive; but in fact, since Tri-

dent can be cancelled without altering the substructure of nuclear defence and could, under certain circumstances, be reintroduced after five years, the opposition from those areas would not be great.

More opposition could be expected from the Office of Management and Budget within the Ministry of Defence, because of the costs and waste involved in cancellation. US opposition to Trident cancellation will be quite mild, no more severe than would be expected with the loss of a client state for missiles: the number of warheads contributed to Nato's overall nuclear capability is not significant in Pentagon terms.

**The US nuclear bases:** The second issue is the removal of all nuclear weapons from bases in Britain, while maintaining the US bases themselves. The National Security Council in Washington will take this more seriously, but it remains in the nature of an inconvenience as long as delivery systems remain in place: in time of international tension the warheads can be flown back in.

Holy Loch is a separate question. It is not a base, but a support ship moored in British waters. While not needed for US Trident submarines, it may be essential for sea-launched cruise missiles. The Pentagon and State Department

would therefore make every effort to negotiate a special case for Holy Loch.

**Removing cruise:** The removal of cruise missiles, the third issue in order of likely opposition, is viewed with much more seriousness by Nato. As perceived by the Nato Nuclear Planning Group, it could be the death-blow to the entire troublesome strategy of placing intermediate range missiles in Europe. If Britain won't have cruise, why should Italy and Germany have cruise and Pershing II? The fragile Dutch and Belgian decision to station missiles would almost certainly collapse. If this part of a Labour government policy appeared likely to become a reality, pressure on Britain's representatives within Nato both before and after an election would be very substantial. [The Iceland summit this weekend, however, is likely to consider the future of missiles in Europe—Ed.]

The removal of British officers from senior Nato command positions could be proposed, the withdrawal of US troops from Europe would be threatened, diplomatic cooperation in some areas could be withdrawn by the State Department, economic reprisals would become a real possibility.

**Polaris:** The fourth issue is the phase-out of Polaris and withdrawal of Brit-

## Scilla McLean on the tricky diplomacy of unilateral nuclear disarmament

ish tactical nuclear weapons. The Foreign Office, if it perceived this as becoming a reality, would be fraught, in the words of one senior official, by "frantic diplomatic anxieties." France would become the only European power with nuclear weapons. West Germany might be pulled into an exclusive pro-French orientation.

The Chiefs of Staff would react to this issue on more specific grounds: they would fear a crucial loss of confidence between US and UK services, especially between the Royal Navy and the US Navy, where there is a vibrant mutual loyalty. In the deeper recesses of the Ministry of Defence the much praised and much prized Strategic Systems Executive, which has managed the British side of the missile and submarine collaboration with great efficiency, would not fail to point out that in 1984 the pivotal mutual defence agreement between Britain and the US was updated and extended for 10 more years.

The key question is whether the National Atomic Coordinating Office, and Joint Working Groups would be disbanded. These transatlantic groups of civil servants are the lynchpin of nuclear development between Britain and the US, and have functioned quietly and efficiently out of the public eye for 25 years.

Nato's Nuclear Planning Group, which brings together ministers of defence of Nato nations, and more importantly Nato's High Level Group, which is chaired by Mr Richard Perle, will see the phase-out of Polaris as a withdrawal of UK commitments under the Brussels treaty.

Their reaction would not mark time until the results of an election; the British press would be sedulously persuaded of the folly of such actions. Arm twisting within Nato has not infrequently in the past overcome consideration of the reservations of the electorate on much less fundamental issues.

**Should all US bases go?** If Labour's plans ultimately extend as far as the removal of US bases from Britain, in the eyes of the US National Security Council this would be tantamount to British departure from Nato. It would mean the loss of an essential intermediary with Europe, not to mention the strategic blow of the loss of forward bases. If this move were to include the intelligence gathering facilities, it would mean the end of US/UK intelligence links, upon which the Ministry of Defence relies for a host of essential targeting information, as well as the basis for its estimate of Russian threat.

US intelligence services have had substantial numbers of staff based in Britain since 1950. The US reaction to New Zealand's port ban on nuclear-armed ships — the removal of the entire structure of US/UK intelligence cooperation, including all intelligence information — is an eloquent indication of the scope of US reaction to this move — at least 100 times as important in US eyes. That there would be economic reprisals seems highly likely. Neil Kinnock's protestations of sovereignty would ring hollow over an empty pound. US cooperation could be withdrawn, not only in the area of intelligence but in all geo-strategic areas of the globe. For example, the British situation in the Falklands could become untenable. In precise terms, the US could refuse to continue to supply the highly enriched uranium upon which our nuclear-powered submarines (which Labour would maintain) depend.

**Aldermaston:** The bottom-line of Labour defence policy is an issue that is

not much aired even in Labour circles. That is the question of Britain's nuclear structure — our basic ability to make nuclear bombs. It is the question, among others, of whether Aldermaston should be shut down.

Nuclear scientists argue that design teams, once dispersed, would be impossible to replace at a later date; so given the possibility of a future government re-instating nuclear weapons, to shut down Aldermaston would be irresponsible.

There is also the question of what "shut down" means: in the eyes of the Ministry of Defence, there is doubt whether it could avar, be shut down. The time-scale is certainly very long. The question arises as to whether Britain would also get rid of nuclear-powered submarines — perceived as a major conventional capability by all parties. If Aldermaston is not shut down, as long as plutonium stocks last and fissile material fabrication facilities remain in Britain, other nations will not regard us as non-nuclear.

There is a further twist in the tail: verification of nuclear capability shut down would require international inspection. This would lead to dissemination of US data, which the UK agreed not to do under the 1958 Bilateral Agreement with the US; the agreement gives the US power of veto of international inspection.

None of these problems is insurmountable. The boldness and conviction required to make major changes in governing Britain has been a quality of the Labour Party. But to make changes as major as this, robust assertions of national sovereignty and governmental power when in office will not be enough.

The Labour leadership must know that detailed and exacting preparation is necessary. First, there must be recognition of the scale and extent of the changes. Second, ways must be designed and mechanisms built for the reversal of a policy which has lumbered forward, gaining weight, over 40 years.

There is no department within the Ministry of Defence which is equipped to do this; no studies have been made within the Ministry as to how a non-nuclear policy for Britain could be made to work. And preparations must be made to withstand the extraordinary pressures to which a British government under such circumstances will be subjected.

**Scilla McLean** is research director of the Oxford Research Group, which has spent the last four years examining nuclear weapon decision-making in the US, the USSR, China and Europe. The Group is independent, charitably funded, and has made its research findings available to all British political parties. The report summarised here was commissioned by the Labour shadow cabinet in December last year, and delivered to the party in January this year.

**Who decided?** An ORO study of British nuclear weapon decision-making is available (price £8.50) from the Group at 1 High Street, Woodstock, Oxon, OX7 1TE.

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THE Labour Party voted overwhelmingly last week to pursue its non-nuclear defence strategy. Inside Nato and Mr Neil Kinnock pledged that he would not allow allies in Washington or Europe to defect him from that course.

A Labour Government would take seriously opposition from other members of Nato and discuss policy with them. "That does not mean a change of course," said Mr Kinnock.

He was speaking on television shortly after the party conference voted by an enormous margin to support a non-nuclear defence policy at home. It would be equal margins against removing conventional American bases and intelligence facilities and withdrawal from Nato.

Asked if, as Prime Minister, he would treat "with the utmost gravity" opposition from Washington, Mr Kinnock replied: "Yes, but without any defensiveness." On defence, as on economic policy, his government would not be blown off course. "We will stick to it and not be pushed."

He dismissed predictions of an immediate Nato crisis after the election of a Labour government and said he could not accept the suggestion that the United States would start withdrawing troops from Europe to increase pressure. "Such speculation is in the realm of political science fiction."

He said he would talk to the Americans and European governments as allies, but would insist that Britain would be non-nuclear. "We wouldn't have nuclear arms carried or stockpiled in Britain," he said.

There was overwhelming support in the defence debate for Mr Kinnock's strategy. Speeches from the constituency section showed deep hostility to Nato and the United States — more strongly expressed than perhaps the leadership would have liked — but union block votes ensured that commitment to the Atlantic Alliance was maintained.

Mr Denis Healey had earlier been quick to recast his interpretation of Labour's commitment to a non-nuclear Britain, saying that in the light of "bullying and blackmail" from Washington he would no longer say that it was conceivable that US nuclear weapons could stay in Britain. The affair therefore subsided quickly, but left some senior party figures keenly aware of their difficulties in presenting a policy which has required such manoeuvres between right and left inside the party.

Urging delegates to demand the removal of all American bases in Britain as a pre-requisite of Labour's non-nuclear defence policy, Mr John Owen Jones (Cardiff Central) said in the debate that there were 113 such bases in the country along with 5,000 personnel and a third of the US Air Force bases abroad. "How have we allowed our sovereignty to be prostituted in this manner?" he asked.

A US President was not going to consult with a British Prime Minister on the use of those bases, he claimed. Mr Jones said a reverse situation, with foreign bases on American soil, would be unthinkable in the USA and regarded as a slur to the country's pride. "It is a relationship of master and servant," he added. "There is nothing special about servility."

Mr Bill Miller (Glasgow Cathcart) said that, contrary to the Nato Treaty, US F-111s were used to kill and injure innocent men, women and children in Libya, while turning Britain into an agent of American foreign policy to the extent that it was now the "61st state of America". But this position would not be stopped by Labour's non-nuclear defence policy, he warned, because US bases would remain.

André Lemon (Bristol West) called for a campaign against Nato

## Kinnock warns Nato allies

By James Naughtie

membership and the US military presence in Europe and demanded that the next Labour Government should remove all US bases — nuclear or otherwise — from Britain as the first step towards a European nuclear force zone.

While Nato was supposed to protect Europe from the dreaded Soviet machine, she asked: "Can you believe in this day and age the Soviet Union is coming over to invade Britain...?" She said Nato's function was purely to link British and European foreign policy with the USA.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, outraged some delegates by a strong defence of Nato. Moving another motion, which called for a reaffirmation of Labour defence policy in supporting Nato, he said that 20 million people had died in armed conflicts over the world since 1945. "But none of them in the countries protected by Nato

because its strength has kept the peace — that is the truth whether you like it or not."

Recalling the Hungarian uprising, Mr Jordan asked if the USSR was so peace-loving why were 9,000 nuclear warheads pointing at Britain? "I have heard the cry disarm and trust," he added. "As a trade unionist I put this question in every trade union in this hall. Are you saying that the people who crushed trade unions in Poland... could offer us a strike-free deal? It is we who are committed to peace and we should be pushing for it in the place it would have most effect — in Nato."

Mr Dennis Davies, the shadow defence secretary, said the party had a sensible defence policy which was one of the most radical put before the British people. "We have a policy which makes military sense, a policy which is morally right and we have the will to see it through."

Earlier in the week Mr Kinnock had laid claim to a moral majority for Labour's values and its policies in challenging Thatcherism, and confidently told his party that its duty now was to prepare for government. The Labour leader's speech was long, highly emotional, and an exhibition of confidence.

The centrepiece of the speech was an attack on the "severe savage years" of Mrs Thatcher's government. "I look at all that and I ask myself — just where do they get their idea of morality?"

The social effects of Mrs Thatcher's policies had shown that she neither saw nor felt their consequences. "I suppose that the pious sermons and self-righteous homilies from Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tebbit are easier than facing the real problems or answering the real questions."

There was, he claimed, a great grouping that opposed the "moloch and meanness" of Toryism. "There

is in this country a moral majority. It is not a narrow, bigoted, self-righteous grouping. It is a broad-minded and compassionate grouping of people." It was not sentimental, but realistic.

The attack on Thatcherism was linked with an eloquent section on international affairs in which he won his loudest and most sustained applause for an attack on American policy in Nicaragua. He said its people must wonder how a great country born in revolution could finance "the evil people who murder the innocent of Nicaragua."

His attack on Washington was balanced by a reaffirmation of his commitment to Nato, but only with a non-nuclear policy. There were many non-nuclear American facilities in Britain which Labour would protect, and he could not believe the Americans would wish that co-operation to be put at risk.

"It does demonstrate that we play, and will continue to play, our part in providing security for the American people and no US government is going to sacrifice that essential link in our security."

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## THE WEEK

**CHALLENGER** Anatoly Karpov gave up his fight to regain the World Chess Championship on Monday in Leningrad, offering a draw that clinched the championship for Gary Kasparov. After playing 55 games through three matches since September 1984, the two are separated by only one point in their cumulative score. But after 10 weeks of a season contest that included some brilliant plays, this match ended quietly: Kasparov was offering when Karpov made his 150th move in the 23rd match game, picking off a bishop in front of his opponent's king. When Kasparov returned, Karpov looked up and stretched out his hand to shake, offering the draw.

Karpov has the right to insist on playing Game 24, and that game will be played later this week, but it will not affect the result.

**ISRAELI** jets attacked a Palestinian base near the Lebanese city of Tripoli, the furthest north the Israelis have ever reached in what they described as a "routine and continuing policy of striking at guerrilla targets".

The target, a two-story building 12 miles north-east of Tripoli, gave rise to speculation that it was intentionally directed at the Syrian-controlled area where the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front, thought to have carried out last month's bomb outrage in Paris, has its main support.

**THE** Pope travelled to the small town of Ars during his visit to France to celebrate the 200th anniversary of St Jean-Marie Vianney, the 19th century curé of Ars. Addressing a gathering of nearly 6,000 priests and seminarians from all over the world the Pope expressed deep concern over the decline in religious practice. (Le Monde, page 11.)

**THE** director-general of Unesco, Amadou M'bow, is stepping down next year in hopes of ending a continuing crisis within the organisation.

The announcement by the Senegalese-born educator that he would not seek a third term as head of the Paris-based organisation was a surprise.

Both the United States and Britain have withdrawn from Unesco over the past two years after accusing it of persistent anti-Western bias and straying from its original purposes.

**SEVERE** restrictions on ownership of French media outlets have been rushed through the French Cabinet in the hope of stemming an invasion of foreign capital, as the state broadcasting monopoly breaks up with the privatisation of TF1 and the opening up of a series of satellite and cable outlets.

No single communications firm will be allowed to own more than 25 per cent of a national TV station, or more than 30 per cent of the national press.

**SOVIET** and British scientists have signed a protocol for joint space research, leading to the possible launching of an unmanned satellite in the 1990s.

The protocol was signed by the Soviet Institute for Space Studies and delegates from the British National Space Centre during a visit to Moscow. It did not include immediate plans to send a British man into space.

**THE** Russian translator for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Moscow was arrested and briefly detained by Soviet plainclothes police last week. In what his correspondent, Mr Mike McIver, claimed was "an attempt to get me up".

"I interpret this as a planned warning to the Western press corps in Moscow," Mr McIver said. "They are telling us, just because Nick Daniloff went free, don't think the pressure is off."

Mr McIver said a man telephoned him requesting a meeting "somewhere quiet". Mr McIver invited him into the CBC office in one of the compounds where foreigners live. As his Russian translator met the man they were surrounded by security police.

**CANADA** has reassessed its claim of sovereignty over the Northwest Passage, which the United States considers to be international waters.

In a speech to the opening session of Parliament on behalf of the government by Governor-General Mrs Jeanne Sauvé, the administration of Prime Minister Mr Brian Mulroney also toned down its push for a free-trade agreement with the United States.

## Reagan plays down Iceland hopes

By Alex Brummer in Washington and Hella Pick in London

THE White House stressed this week that it wanted the Reykjavik summit at the weekend to be largely a private affair dominated by "face-to-face" meetings between President Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev — on the lines of the fireside chats in Geneva just over a year ago.

Although it is dampening hopes for an arms-control deal in Iceland, the Reagan Administration left open the possibility of an accord on Euro-missiles. But it remained cool to suggestions from Moscow that a ban on underground nuclear testing could be agreed.

The President said that Iceland was not intended to be a signing ceremony, or a media event, although it has clearly become one. While the emphasis would be on planning and preparation, said Mr Reagan, discussion would not be limited to arms proposals but would also encompass Soviet human rights violations.

Under him, the US was talking to the Kremlin with no illusions: "It was talking, not just about the prevention of war, but the spread of freedom, and America was now economically and militarily resurgent. It was our understanding that this meeting was to be brief, a limited number of people travelling. It was to be business, straightforward business, with very little social activity," the presidential spokesman told correspondents when asked about Mrs Gorbachev's decision to accompany her husband to Reykjavik.

The two superpowers had sprung their most dramatic surprise in years on an unsuspecting world last week when they announced that President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev would try to engineer a breakthrough in arms control negotiations at a preparatory "working meeting" in Iceland over the weekend of October 11-12.

In a potentially historic switch the once-obdurate US President finally placed his authority behind his more conciliatory advisers, led by the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and almost certainly alarmed the Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger.

America's allies in Europe are confident that the Reykjavik meeting will produce the green light for an agreement for radical reductions of cruise and Pershing II missiles on terms that will not prejudice their security and will, very likely, reinforce the standing of Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl as they approach general elections.

In Reykjavik, the two leaders will confront these issues:

I Arms control and security;

## France appeals to Syria

By Campbell Page in Paris

FRANCE has asked Syria for information and support in curbing the activities of terrorist groups in Lebanon and the Middle East, the Prime Minister, Mr Jacques Chirac, said on Monday.

The Prime Minister followed the Government's policy of not accusing Syria of involvement in recent terrorist activities in France, but of pointing the finger at the Armed Revolutionary Lebanese Faction (Farl), which is based in north Lebanon and is assumed to have Syrian links.

In essence Mr Chirac's message, in a radio interview, implied that if Syria was not part of the problem, then it should be part of the solution.

The Prime Minister attacked negotiation or compromise with

1. An agreement to destroy virtually all medium range cruise, Pershing II and SS20 medium range missiles, leaving the two superpowers with no more than 200-300 of such missiles. It was possible to draft a treaty in time for Mr Gorbachev's visit to the United States. But an agreement, although very close, still requires some significant concessions, especially from the Soviet side.

2. The negotiations on strategic nuclear arms and space weapons are no longer deadlocked. But it requires major decisions by both leaders before there can be any real progress towards their goal of an intermediate agreement to reduce strategic nuclear arsenals by 30 per cent — the target on which they are already agreed. Key decisions to be taken in this context involve the duration of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, and whether the development of space weapons should be allowed under the terms of the treaty.

3. A nuclear test-ban. Mr Gorbachev will seek a US commitment to negotiate a comprehensive test-ban. But at best, Mr Reagan, in Iceland, will undertake to submit the still unratified Threshold Test-ban Treaty, and the companion treaty on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions (concluded in 1974) for approval by the US Senate.

4. Chemical Weapons ban — the two leaders may try to narrow differences over verification, signalling their hope that a formal treaty will be negotiated next year.

5. Conventional arms: Mr Gorbachev is expected to suggest that the Vienna MBFR talks, deadlocked for 13 years, should be wound up with a symbolic withdrawal of a few thousand troops by the US and the Soviet Union, and that a force reduction in Europe should be negotiated by the 35-nation Stockholm forum, which has just successfully negotiated an agreement on military confidence-building measures.

II Regional issues: President Reagan will seek to convince the Soviet leader that progress on arms control is not enough unless Third World issues can also be resolved. The US priority is for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and a halt to subversive activities in Central America and Angola.

III Human rights: President Reagan will seek a commitment from the Soviet Union to increase the flow of emigration of Soviet Jews, as well as of human rights activists like Professor Sakharov.

Mr Chirac said the video cassette was being made public at the request of the hostages, who were eager that the French people see the French Government should not forget their plight and their 500 days of detention.



Dr Orlov arrives in New York.

## Orlov pledge to fight on

THE Soviet dissident, Dr Yuri Orlov (above), expelled from the Soviet Union after release from Siberia as part of the Daniloff-Zakharov deal, arrived to a tumultuous welcome in New York at the weekend. "I plan not only to continue my scientific research, but will go on defending human rights for the people of the Soviet Union," the 62-year-old physicist said through an interpreter. "I will apply my effort to gain release of those still in Soviet prisons."

Dr Orlov, his once-bright red hair now tinged with grey, said his health, a source of concern to friends in the West, has begun to improve lately. His wife, who had not travelled outside her homeland before, looked confused and disoriented as she arrived. Asked how she felt to be leaving the Soviet Union, she replied: "It's hard." Dr Orlov was stripped of his Soviet citizenship before expulsion.

## The dark years

By Hella Pick

DR ORLOV, after nine years of harsh imprisonment and exile in Siberia for his human rights activities, looks old far beyond his 62 years. The third man in the US-Soviet deal on Nicholas Daniloff will certainly need a period of recovery to decide whether to return to his profession or to devote himself full-time to the cause of fellow human rights activists still in Soviet jails and labour camps.

Dr Orlov, although not as well known in the West as Anatoly Shcharansky, was the founder and first chairman of the unofficial Helsinki Monitoring Group, which tried to report systematically to the outside world on how Moscow was handling the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Declaration.

Such work was virtually guaranteed to lead to confrontation with the authorities, and imprisonment. Perhaps the only surprise was that he was left at liberty for more than a year, until February, 1977. By then, Dr Orlov had already established himself as a human rights activist.

Born into a working-class family, he served in the Red Army during the second world war, and afterwards secured a place at Moscow University where he joined the Communist Party, and graduated with a physics degree in 1951.

His subsequent work at the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics marked him out for a distinguished career. But it came to an abrupt halt in 1956 after the Soviet party's twentieth congress, where Khrushchev denounced Stalin.

Dr Orlov interpreted this as a cue for proposing more democratic party practices, but he had misjudged the political climate: within days he lost his job, and was expelled from the party.

Eventually he found a job in the republic of Armenia, where he

## Daniloff deal swayed by CIA blunder

By Roy Gutman in Washington

THE US was eager to have Nicholas Daniloff freed from a Soviet prison in part because of CIA misbanding of a contact the agency had with him last year, US officials said.

The officials said that the Reagan Administration feared that the CIA had inadvertently implicated the American reporter in a way that could have caused him serious trouble under prolonged questioning by the Soviet Union and could have embarrassed the Administration and extended the confrontation. The contact involved a communication that the US News and World Report correspondent delivered from a Soviet citizen to the US embassy in Moscow.

The incident that occurred near the beginning of 1985 involved a self-styled priest who sought out Mr Daniloff with purported information about Soviet youth organisations. A few days after the priest, who called himself Father Roman, had promised to drop off a packet of material on religious subjects, Mr Daniloff found an envelope left for him outside his flat and addressed to the US embassy.

Sources close to Mr Daniloff said that, uncertain what to do with the package, he finally brought it to the embassy, where an official

opened it in his presence. It contained other envelopes, including one addressed to the CIA director, Mr William Casey.

In one letter was a reference and other military subjects. The letter addressed to Mr Casey was handed over to the CIA chief of station, and he in turn gave it to a CIA subordinate in the embassy, the sources said.

One embassy official asked Mr Daniloff how to get in touch with Father Roman, and he provided the information.

In an unusual move, which one senior US official in Washington termed "very amateurish," the CIA subordinates then telephoned Father Roman and on the open line said, "I'm a friend of Nicolas" and acknowledged receiving the packet. He also sent Father Roman a note in which he used words to the effect he had received "your packages from your journalist friend."

Sources close to Mr Daniloff quoted him as saying that the episode was thoroughly discussed during his interrogation. It was also mentioned in the indictment against him handed down on September 7. Mr Daniloff's wife, Ruth, told reporters in Moscow that Roman was a "bogus priest" the KGB picked on Nick at the end of 1984.

## Reagan angry at video appeal from hostages

By Diana Page in Washington

PRESIDENT REAGAN snapped in frustration last week at questions raised by a videotape from American hostages in Lebanon who asked that their plight receive the same government efforts as that of the journalist, Nicholas Daniloff.

"We don't know who is holding them," Mr Reagan said with visible anger. The President was heading for his helicopter when he suddenly turned and marched back to give reporters his answer. "There's not a day we don't try to get our hostages back," he said.

Mr Reagan said that he did not believe that the journalist, Terry Anderson, or his fellow captive, David Jacobson, had made the videotape sent to news organisations of their own free will. The two hostages, who are believed to be held in Lebanon, complained on tape that their Government had negotiated for Mr Daniloff's release from the Soviet Union while refusing to do anything to free them.

The tape showing the hostages has been repeatedly shown on television here and prompted a new outcry by their relatives. Mr Anderson's sister, Peggy Sey, told journalists that she thought her brother's declarations were his own, not prompted by his kidnappers.

The Administration position is that, while the US can talk to a recognised government such as the Soviet Union, there are no clear channels through which to deal with "shadowy, faceless terrorist organisations".

The State Department announced that contacts through third parties are continuing, although so far they have led nowhere.

Although the kidnappers have demonstrated that they can communicate with news agencies by

letter, telephone and videotape, they've shown no inclination to talk directly with us," the State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman said.

"We're willing to talk with anyone or any group about the return and safety of the hostages, but we're not going to give in to terrorist demands," he said.

## Argentinians attend Falklands burial

By a correspondent

MR Isias Gimenez, father of an Argentinian pilot buried in the Falklands, said in Darwin, in the Falklands, after seeing the grave that "at some time in the future, when all the bodies have been identified, and all the bereaved parents in Argentina agree, they would like the bodies to be returned to their homeland".

Mr Gimenez, who is president of the National Commission of Parents and Relatives for the Disappeared in Argentina — his daughter is secretary — has been campaigning since 1983 for more information about Falklands war victims.

He plans to spend a week in Britain talking to various organisations, and meeting Mr Des Keoghane, chairman of the British-based Falklands Families Association, before returning home.

His daughter, Maria, a practising lawyer, told reporters that "her mother wished Miguel to be buried in the Falklands". She said her father "felt no anger towards the British or Argentinian governments for the death of her brother. He was a professional military person with a job to do".

The burial service for Miguel Angel Gimenez, at the Argentinian cemetery in Darwin was "an

## Gandhi's narrow escape

By Eric Silver in New Delhi

SENIOR intelligence officers are investigating India's most embarrassing security lapse since Mrs Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her own bodyguard two years ago this month.

Har son and successor as Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, survived a bizarre attempt on his life after a memorial service at the cremation site of an earlier martyr, Mahatma Gandhi, whose 117th birthday was being celebrated as a national holiday.

A drastic review was ordered of VIP security. Several high-ranking officers have already been suspended.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi passed barely 10 yards below the arch where the assassin was hiding, but the man did not open fire until the Prime Minister and his wife, Sonia, were about 30 yards away.

No one in the Prime Minister's party was hit, but three plainclothes security men and three bystanders were slightly wounded in the crossfire.

The assassin surrendered without a struggle. Mr Gandhi has been top of the Sikh extremists' hit list since the pogrom in which 3,000 Sikhs were butchered after Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. The Sikhs blame him far too intervening sooner.

Folk sources said that the gunman had no known connection with any terrorist group. He was Karamjit Singh, 26, a Sikh from Sangrur in the Punjab. He had at first given Hindu name.

The man appeared to be acting alone and to have no plans to escape.

The first shot was heard at about 7.15am while Mr and Mrs Gandhi were already paying homage at the Mahatma's black marble memorial. President Singh joined the Prime Minister about five minutes later, and the ceremony continued.

A second shot was heard after 30 minutes amid chanting by Hindu priests. The police dismissed both shots as scooters backing.

The service ended. The President left and Mr Gandhi began to follow him. Both of them passed within 10 yards of a concrete arch, covered in thick vines. The gunman was hidden amid the vines on the roof. He waited until Mr Gandhi was about 30 yards

away before shooting. Only then did the security men go into action, firing in rapid succession at the abettor and calling on the gunman to put up his hands and come out. "Black cat" commandos of Mr Gandhi's personal bodyguard joined armed police in bringing out the assassin.

The gunman had been hiding in the creeper-covered arch for several days waiting for the Prime Minister's visit. Security men searched the area but missed his hiding place.

The would-be assassin used what is described as a "country-made" pistol, firing 12-bore ammunition. Such shotguns are common in rural India, but are hardly the weapon of a professional hit man. The pistol would nonetheless have been lethal if fired at shorter range.

Indian observers blamed the lapse on the proliferation of security organisations assigned to protect the Prime Minister. The happiest man in Delhi was no doubt Mr R. T. Nagrani, who was dismissed last week as chief of the "black cat" National Security Guards after his rivals had complained that he was too autocratic.

Police said Karamjit appeared to want revenge for the anti-Sikh riots after Indira Gandhi was murdered by her Sikh bodyguards two years ago.

A Sikh friend was killed by Hindus, but Karamjit escaped by hiding in his employer's house. After returning home, he slipped into a deep depression and vanished three months ago.

Less than 24 hours after the attempt on Mr Gandhi's life Sikh extremists opened fire on the Punjab police chief, Mr Julio Ribeiro, narrowly missing him but wounding his wife.

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## US now committed to far-reaching sanctions

By Alex Brummer in Washington and David Bereford in Johannesburg

IN A sharp repudiation of President Reagan's policy towards South Africa, the Republican-controlled Senate last week overrode the President's veto of the Congressional Sanctions Bill.

The overwhelming 78 to 21 vote for the rejection of Mr Reagan's veto means that the United States will put into place the most far-reaching and punitive measures against Pretoria, imposed by any Western government. The veto was crushed in the Democratic-controlled House earlier in the week.

It is the first time in almost six years of Mr Reagan's presidency that Congress has overturned a veto on a critical foreign policy bill. The override represents a severe setback for Mr Reagan's view that the executive alone should frame foreign policy.

After the vote, the President said he deeply regretted that Congress had seen fit to override his veto. "Punitive sanctions, I believe, are not the best course of action. They hurt the very people they are intended to help," Mr Reagan said in a White House statement. He expressed the hope that the sanctions would not lead to more violence and more repression.

Meanwhile, rightwing senators attacked Senator Richard Lugar,

chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, for his role in overturning the veto. "He is substituting his judgment for that of the President of the United States in the matter of foreign policy," Senator Malcolm Wallop said. "The chairman appears to be set in his own mind that he knows what he's doing better than the President."

In the midst of the debate, Piki Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, telephoned Senator Jesse Helms, a rightwinger who describes himself as an old friend, and warned that Pretoria would retaliate against US sanctions by cutting off grain purchases from the Americans.

Senator Helms immediately brought several conservative senators from farming states to the telephone. Mr Botha told Senator Edward Zorinsky of Nebraska and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa: "The moment that you override President Reagan's veto, South Africa will ban US grain exports."

Mr Botha's action was, not surprisingly, condemned as an unjust interference in America's domestic political affairs. The main Republican proponent of the Sanctions Bill, Senator Lugar, said Mr Botha's phone call was despicable, adding: "I cannot imagine that a Senator would be influenced by bribery and intimidation... It's an



affront to the decency of the American people." It is considered highly unusual for a foreign government to seek directly to change the votes of Senators on any issue.

Mr Botha, however, refused to apologise. He said in a statement issued in Washington: "I informed the senators that if the Senate should reverse President Reagan's veto and legalise the ban on imports of South African agricultural products in terms proposed by the US Congress, then South Africa would purchase no grain from the United States."

In Johannesburg, he expressed bewilderment at accusations by US senators that he was using "bribery" and "bullying" tactics. The minister said he had merely

pointed out the inevitable consequences of sanctions.

The American Sanctions Bill will cut Pretoria off from access to US markets for its coal, steel and textiles as well as banning business investment. South Africans and their agents will not be able to have bank accounts in the United

States, hurting their business interests. South African airlines will be banned from landing in the US.

While most of this has been described as symbolic, it will deprive Pretoria of valuable dollar foreign exchange at a time when it is struggling to meet its debt repayments.

## Counting the cost

By Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

WHITE South Africa reacted to the United States Senate's decision to impose sanctions with anger and dismay, but also with an uneasy sense that a point of no return has been passed in what has so far been a slow and ineffective process towards its economic isolation.

The US was South Africa's biggest trade partner last year, according to figures collated by the South African Foreign Trade Organisation, and business leaders are under no illusions that replacing the lost trade will be easy. Mr Pat Corbin, president of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, urged exporters to give the highest priority to the search for new markets.

Although less than half of South Africa's exports to the US — they totalled 3 billion rand last year — would be affected by the sanctions package, losses would still run to hundreds of millions of rands a year. Mr Corbin said, "The central importance of the US to the South African economy is illustrated by another figure: it is the third biggest investor."

Meanwhile, Pretoria attempted to stiffen the morale of the white

community. The response of the Foreign Minister, Mr "Pik" Botha, was typical. While deploring the "emotional wave" in the US which led to sanctions, he urged South Africans not to be discouraged, but to stand firm and search for alternative markets. Meanwhile the Chamber of Mines, which represents the powerful and conservative mining companies, warned that tightly applied sanctions would cause increased poverty, racial tension and polarisation, and would lead eventually to destabilisation of the subcontinent and "set back progress towards full democracy for years."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the leader of the Anglican Church of South Africa, who played a critical role in coordinating the sanctions campaign, offered whites an olive branch of sorts. "The sanctions are conditional," he said. "If the Government takes the action we have all been advocating, then there will be no sanctions. The Senate has taken a moral decision. It is not anti-South African reaction. It is anti-apartheid, anti-apartheid. It is for freedom and justice."

## Secret SA security system

By David Bereford

DETAILS have emerged in South Africa of an extraordinary "hidden" system of government effectively controlled by the security forces.

The system is made up of over 500 committees — under the supreme control of the State Security Council — and runs parallel to the country's open system of government.

Most of the committees are headed by members of the security forces, and their activities are dominated by joint intelligence sub-committees. They are believed to have been crucial to the conduct of the present state of emergency.

The system, known as the National Security Management System, has been operating for seven years. It was established as part of an attempt to clean up rivalry between government departments — notably the intelligence services — which led to chaos in the security field during the premiership of Mr John Vorster.

The committees have been used

for such operations as an attempt to break the national rent boycott in the black townships — one of the most damaging forms of domestic anti-apartheid action faced by the authorities.

There are also suspicions that the committees making up the system have been involved in "black propaganda" operations — the distribution of fake pamphlets intended to discredit anti-apartheid organisations.

The committees have no executive powers, but are obviously highly influential — having a line of appeal to the powerful State Security Council in the event of its advice being rejected by the "open" government department or local authority which it is advising.

The creation of the National Security Management System was announced in Parliament in 1979. But the astonishing scope of the network — its modus operandi and the extent of its influence on the Government — is revealed for the first time in a report published by the Johannesburg newspaper, the Weekly Mail.

COMMONWEALTH parliamentarians last week wound up their 32nd meeting, reassured that the Commonwealth will survive differences with Britain on sanctions against South Africa, (writes Hella Pick). Even though there was no attempt by the British Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary to deny the wide gulf, speeches delivered during the week-long

meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London suggested an effort on all sides to find greater common ground in the search for fundamental change in South Africa.

During the mini-summit in August, there was widespread concern that the Commonwealth might break up over the sanctions issue. But last week the Secretary-

General, Sir Sonny Ramphal, stressed that the Commonwealth "did not merely survive that trial (of credibility) but emerged from the mini-summit with at least some new strengths." He added: "It is important to underline that despite the trauma of disagreement with the British Government, other Commonwealth governments have not seen this as

a row with Britain."

There was much passionate denunciation of apartheid as a "satanic" policy; and Sir Geoffrey Howe urged them all to accept that the British Government's abhorrence of apartheid was genuine, and that its wish to see it "abolished quickly and completely" was as strong as everybody else's.

But Britain could not accept that

Commonwealth countries had the obligation to unite behind a specific course of action. The Commonwealth was not an executive body, Mrs Thatcher had argued at the state opening of the conference. Its very strength, she asserted, stemmed from the fact that its common ideals, and its commitment to democracy, allowed free debate with diversity of policies.

## The impotence of the legates of Empire

ONCE upon a time there was the British Empire, on which the sun never set. I shall return later to this never-setting sun. Then there was the British Commonwealth, which was at first made up of dominions, and which managed for many years to include not only Australia, Canada, and so on, but very different states like southern Ireland and South Africa. But there were very few members. Then there were more. The result was the Commonwealth of Nations, the British Commonwealth but simply the Commonwealth.

There are 49 sovereign states and 19 associate members. Of the 49, 25 happen to be republics (though the Queen still remains head of the Commonwealth), and 22 happen to have a population less than that of Greater Manchester. This Commonwealth has been meeting, at its parliamentary conference, in London.

Some 1,800 delegates have been welcomed, and speeches have been

made by the Queen, the Lord Chancellor, Mrs Thatcher, the Speaker, and the Foreign Secretary. The delegates have also been given dinner by the Lord Mayor of London, and taken, at the expense of HMG, on trips to see Blenheim, Chertwell, Knole, Greenwich, and the museum, 42nd Street. The Commonwealth, so constituted, spent much of two whole days debating itself. The motion was, "The Commonwealth: Who Cares?"

I must make it clear what this conference was not. It was not a Commonwealth Conference proper, with Heads of State in full panoply, threatening each other. It was the 32nd conference of Commonwealth parliamentarians, MPs, and adjuncts. All panoply was not of course dispensed with. Parliament Square was decked with many-coloured flags.

Before getting round to deciding who cared, the Commonwealth debated apartheid. The consensus seemed to be that there was going to be a bloodbath, though it might take some time. An MP from Zimbabwe remarked that there would be prosperity in South Africa after apartheid, which seemed optimistic, but also, in the next breath, that we, the United Kingdom, should not force the South Africans (by which he did not mean the present Government) "to look for other friends."

An Indian MP said either Britain must quit the Commonwealth or all the other countries must, but he did not believe it would come to that. Trinidad and Tobago remarked that the so-called common bond which bound the Commonwealth together was Britain's previous colonial domination.

Tanzania explained that the privileges of South African whites would go up in flames in the not too distant future. Its delegate said the struggle had now been thrust into the hands of boys of nine, 12, and 13 years, and that from these people, in 10 years' time, would come the new leaders, thus bred in violence.

Britain was not, on the whole, held in high esteem. Baroness Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who listened to the debate, was heard to say, when she

was asked how things were going, "Well, one does one's best in an imperfect world."

After lunch on Tuesday came Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. A text of his speech, partly in the form of notes, was handed round beforehand. "Introductory courtesies," said his first note, and he gallantly mentioned relief (at what?) and appreciation. Then he got on to his Sunday school days, recalling a Silver Jubilee card of 1935 addressed to "the children of the British Empire"; and how easy should be proud to give their country the services of their work, their minds, and their hearts. This somehow did not catch the spirit of the conference, and Sir Geoffrey went on to recall his service with the King's African Rifles in Kenya and Uganda, but to admit that his Swahili was now rusted almost beyond repair.

"We do not believe," he said, "that one can defeat apartheid by wrecking the economies of south-

ern Africa." It was perfectly possible to be militant about apartheid and at the same time rational. A bankrupt South Africa would be no legacy for the majority who would one day control it. He called the Commonwealth a force for good, and then finished. There was the lightest of applause.

This speech, though in large part about South Africa, opened the two sessions devoted to "Who cares?" It became obvious that the delegates thought Britain didn't. The Hon. Robert S. Hall, Minister of Health and Education of the Turks and Caicos Islands, was certain, to be frank, that Britain didn't care about the islands. Nor, he said, did the press. They had a hurricane, and nobody telephoned. But when their constitution was suspended, there were all sorts of calls. The chief minister was arrested, and again there were all sorts of calls. Nobody in the hall laughed. Mr Hall did not mention that the former chief minister who was arrested is now in a Florida jail for drug smuggling.

It was then that Mr Hall told his old chestnut about never-setting suns and got the conference applauding and banging on its tables. There was an Englishman and an Indian, he said, and the Englishman was boasting that the sun really never did set on the British Empire. At which the Indian replied, "No, because God would never trust an Englishman in the dark." Bang, bang, bang. Much laughter.

And so it went on, on both days. And so it went on. Papua-New Guinea urged the Commonwealth to act now. A woman doctor from the city state of Singapore said it would be presumptuous to offer words of wisdom, but called for a more equitable world order. A message was conveyed from Nelson Mandela.

There was throughout much irritation that the London newspapers were reporting nothing. Six column inches had been spotted in one paper, but that was all. It was hard luck that the conference coincided with the Labour Party's one delegate complained that Labour's new red rose symbol was

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## COMMENT

## Arms control and a sunken Soviet sub

ONE THOUSAND miles off New York a Soviet nuclear submarine comes to the surface, crippled by fire, Gorbachev informs Reagan. Reagan replies regretting the deaths of three of the crew, adding "and if there's anything we can do to help..." The exchange is as weird as any to have taken place between the two men. For the submarine, now sunk, carried 16 nuclear missiles targeted, presumably, on places like Washington and the White House war bunker in Virginia. To use it would have killed not three people but a million times as many. If minds needed to be concentrated on this weekend's pre/interim/mini summit this is the very contingency to do so. To those in the military who sit around the clock tracing the other side's submarine as they carry their lethal cargoes round the oceans the incident may say nothing new.

The Americans knew of the fire, they say, four hours before they heard from the Kremlin. Doubtless they know of the submarine's whereabouts many hours before that. The deadly vigilance is part of a day's work. For everyone else it is another reminder of the shortness of the fuse between life and devastation. It also illustrates, and therein lies the weirdness, the vast disproportion between the exchange of civil messages and the barbarity of what those messages are really about.

Precisely how many intermediate-range missiles the Soviets have trained on Western Europe is occasionally but not seriously disputed. A reliable Western tally has 336, most of them "manned" that is with three warheads apiece. If the NATO disposition were to be completed there would be 572 single-warhead missiles pointing the other

way. A reduction of these grotesque totals is now in prospect, either in Reykjavik or at a subsequent plebiscite summit. If the prospect vanishes through the eodavours of arms lobbyists the consequences will be serious. For in arms control it can be worse to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all.

Supposing some reduction is achieved, where does that leave the two alliances? The answer is both diplomatic and military. Diplomatically there will have been a pronounced shift, which probably began at the recent Stockholm conference on security in Europe. An agreement under the belt is a powerful incentive not only to go for more agreements but to downgrade the rhetorical competition which is itself half the cause of the tension of recent years. Militarily, though, the situation reverts closer, but not

entirely, to what it was before the Soviets began to install SS-20s and NATO responded with its twin-track policy of 1979. It still needs an imaginative leap to see the strategic totals diminished and — on Gorbachev's programme — eliminated by 1992. The Soviets have honoured their recent word to report immediately a serious nuclear accident. That the accident was a military one makes the change of attitude more impressive. After two bad but not critical accidents in a year the wiser men who have engaged in such menacing competition to obtain the more powerful nuclear arsenal may be brought to recognise both the futility of their quest and the hostility which their blasé attitude towards it has aroused world-wide.

Report, page 15

## The new enemy below

WITH the Russian Yankee nuclear sub, the new enemy below. Although the basic facts about this old class of strategic nuclear submarines are well-known, nobody knows what will happen when the stricken vessel settles in the North Atlantic deep. This is the first strategically armed sub to go to the bottom, and all earlier but lesser nuclear accidents of this kind are shrouded in technical secrecy.

On board the Russian sub are 16 nuclear missiles, probably of the old liquid propellant SSN-6 type, each with a one megaton warhead. It is believed, but not confirmed, that the explosion which killed three of the crew outright and blew a hole in the sub's side, was caused by an accidental firing of missile propellant. The hole is said to be aft of the sail — the modern sub's great single fin — which means that it was close to or in the

missile silo. In turn, the silo is a compartment, and the fact that the sub was unable to move implies that the explosion also damaged the reactor steam system. Other missiles may also have been damaged.

Yankee class submarines, of which 34 were built and 23 are still in service, are the oldest of Russia's strategic fleet and under the terms of existing SALT agreements are being phased out. Ten have already been converted into a hunter killer role. But Russia's large submarines, like her nuclear ice breakers, each have two nuclear reactors on board, not one as is common practice in the West.

Each of the Russian reactors is about 800 megawatts (thermal) and delivers about 30,000 shaft horse power. Like all other submarine reactors, they are extremely compact, are fuelled by highly enriched uranium and are very vulnerable to core melt-down if

they lose their coolant. As sea, to make as little noise as possible, nuclear subs tend to cruise around with their reactors almost shut down and using only natural circulation of coolant. It is a requirement that they should be self-cooling when they are shut down. Yet the two reactors, now on the bottom, even if fully shut down and undamaged, will continue to deliver a great deal of heat for many years. If cooling water continues to circulate, they will produce only a rising column of warm and very slightly radioactive water. This may or may not break through the temperature barrier known as the ocean thermocline and reach the surface. In this particular case the surface water is likely to be the Gulf Stream heading our way.

But, on the seabed, reactor intakes may well clog quickly and one or other of the reactors could go into the accidental sequence which

Anthony Tucker on a possible deep-sea threat

is a training mission and was partly recovered from a deep ocean trench in a secret US exercise that was disguised as scientific research. In a more serious accident, the US nuclear sub Scorpion went down in May 1968 450 miles south west of the Azores after the accidental explosion on board of a non-nuclear torpedo.

The Russians have suffered similar accidents. In April 1970 a November class submarine sank after a reactor accident 170 miles south west of Land's End. This sub was believed to be carrying nuclear tipped torpedoes but was closely guarded by a Russian ship and no salvage was attempted.

The loss of the strategic Russian sub is the first occasion on which a complete nuclear missile silo has been lost. The implications are unknown, but it is certain that US naval salvage teams are already weighing up the chances of its surreptitious recovery.

## The Senate gives a lead on sanctions

EVEN until the last moment, it was difficult to believe that the President would lose. So many times, over the last six years, the House and then the Senate have seemed ready to humiliate the Great Communicator. And so many times, at the brink, their resolve has crumbled as the full weight of charisma, threat, and bribery has come to bear.

But no. Mr Reagan finally got the Republican Senate wrong. He also got the mood of the American people wrong, who misjudging the depth of moral hostility towards South Africa and all its current works (as seen, night by night, on nationwide television). And just in case there was

## Caught Out

Continued from page 1

Col. Gadhafi remains in power, and the United States remains deeply frustrated by his regime.

Still, it is clear that the U.S. government, while operating on terrain not altogether new to official and press actors, crossed over a very sensitive line. The posturing, threats and signals through the media that are so integral a part of policy-making were conveyed in this instance with a casual disregard of the bounds being pious and of the embarrassment and damage to credibility sure to come in the event of disclosure. For the government did not simply practice deception by, for instance, ordering fleet movements that it figured the press would find out about and publish, and thereby presumably panicking Col. Gadhafi — this is the example of justifiable "pay-war" — cited by George Shultz. The government actually conveyed in reporters things it knew to be false — that opposition to Col. Gadhafi was stirring, that no American attack was in the wry. This was "disinformation," and it deserves to be condemned. The government is not meant to be in the business of organized lying to the public.

any last chance of a few waverers peeling away to uphold the President's sanctions veto, put with both feet in mouth came Mr Pk Botha, fulminating about reprisals on a hot line to Jesse Helms. The junior Mr Botha now stands unchallenged as the world's most undiplomatic diplomat. It was difficult to think how the South African government could top the recent spectacle of a white Dutch Reform minister holding a memorial service for hundreds of dead black miners in Afrikaans. But Mr Botha's sjambok diplomacy effortlessly leaves such minor tactlessness behind. America has voted for sanctions. The President is finally stranded. Cosmetic offerings of the kind that staved off real measures last year are no longer enough.

Be clear about the Senate's package, with its bans on coal and agricultural imports as well as investment and air links. It will not bring Pretoria to its knees. But it is the toughest and most effective array of sanctions taken anywhere against South Africa — far outdistancing the paucity of European Community steps and, indeed, anything yet fully imposed by the Commonwealth. The nation with the government most implacably opposed to sanctions has, ironically, gone further than any of its partners — and it has moved because public indignation has propelled its legislature to act.

A number of predictable — but important — things will begin to happen next. One is that Mr Reagan himself will swiftly move to embrace the Capitol Hill initiative. The tide has washed over him. If he wishes to retain the authority of leadership, he must bow before the wave of revulsion for apartheid and seek to ride it from the crest. That in turn will see Europe's foot-dragging reluctance broken. West Germany, with long as the strongest nation which declines to act against South Africa. There will be a judicious bucking. And Mrs Thatcher, the leader who has, most volubly, borne the



"CONGRESS DOESN'T APPRECIATE WHAT A GOOD INFLUENCE I'VE HAD ON YOU"

brunt of the argument, the Prime Minister who has poured scorn on sanctions (and her own Foreign Minister) most prolifically? She must either fall glumly into line or risk the now patent peril of being the one voice of any strength anywhere who declines to take a stand against the apartheid system. If that happens then the Commonwealth will indeed fragment; but why on earth should our Prime Minister now think her old policies worth the candle anyway? On so many issues she has aligned herself, detail by detail, with her American allies. Now she is in the slipstream.

Do not, however, suppose that the imposition of wider (and gradually still tougher) sanctions can be contrived without sacrifice

or real problems. South Africa can, and will, hit back. Pk Botha's threat to stop American grain deliveries, not only to South Africa but to all its black neighbours who rely exclusively on the South African transport system, confirms the worst fears of those who, like us, have consistently deplored the sloppy thinking behind most calls for general sanctions. Pretoria's black neighbours are least able to apply such measures and most likely to be hit by retaliation, which is why we suggested exempting the whole of Africa, the world's economically weakest continent.

It has been authoritatively estimated that it would cost \$2 billion to free the "frontline states" of their current dependence on SA Railways for the transport of two-thirds of their trade. The British and West Germany governments could at least spare a few railway engineers and some money towards restoring and maintaining the alternative routes damaged by South African-supported rebels. In Washington there were hints of substantial aid that might have been used in this way. The fact that the veto has been overruled should not entail the abandonment of measures to reduce the dependence of South Africa's neighbours. Those for and those against punitive sanctions can surely agree on the need to free the frontline states of their crippling and dangerous dependence on Pretoria. Those who argue that sanctions will hurt the Africans most are not obliged to sit back and let it happen as sanctions are imposed. This West has begun, finally, to move on one front. The other front, of poverty and starvation and emergency help, follows naturally.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed but not all can be acknowledged. We don't like cutting them but sometimes this is necessary to get them in the paper — short letters stand a better chance. Send them to: The Guardian Weekly, PO Box 15, Chesham, Cheshire SK8 1DD, England.

## Le Monde

ENGLISH SECTION

## Pope's warning to French

By Henri Tincq and Claude Régant

LYONS — "Christians of Lyons and France, what have you made of the heritage of your glorious martyrs?" At the very place where in the year 177 the first Christians were persecuted, the Pope took up, as if echoing it, the question, by now celebrated, he asked at Le Bourget in 1980: "France, what have you made of your baptismal promises?"

His diagnosis of France's moral and religious situation is even more shattering than the one he delivered on his visit to Paris six years ago. "Currents of thought, lifestyles and sometimes even laws contrary to the true meaning of man and God constitute a denial of the Christian faith in the lives of people, families and society." The reference to abortion in particular is clear here.

The Pope conceded that unlike

the first martyrs, today's Christians are free to profess their faith openly. "But," he asked again, "isn't there a real danger of their faith becoming trapped in an environment that is tending to

French: "What are you doing to help unmask today's idols and free yourselves?"

Right from the moment he entered the Trois Gaules amphitheatre, where the Church of France received its bloody baptism, the Pope set the tone for the four-day visit to the Rhône-Alpes region. He proposed to a worried France to go back to the great traditional and more recent Christian figures and rediscover a new fervour. To his mind, this is the foundation of the "second evangelisation" which he is proposing to Western European countries marked by unbelief and religious indifference.

The ecumenical service took place in the presence of all the religious authorities in Lyons — Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran, Orthodox, Armenian and others.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac returned to Paris on Saturday after a two-day official visit to Morocco. In Rabat he announced that nationals of the three Maghreb countries — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia — would in future require visas to enter France. He added, however, that terrorism would in no way influence France's policy towards Arab countries.

## Visas: oil on troubled waters

RABAT — Tradition has been respected. Prime Minister Chirac's 48-hour visit to Rabat provided an occasion for the customary celebration of Franco-Moroccan friendship. And the proof was the warmth of the conversations.

Nevertheless, they concluded with the announcement by Robert Pandraud, the Public Security Minister who accompanied the Prime Minister, of a measure which will no doubt be disliked by the 600,000 Moroccan immigrants in France as by Algerian and Tunisian immigrants. Pandraud told the press that Paris had finally decided to restore visa requirements for Maghrebis nationals seeking to enter France.

Given the volume of business that France conducts with the Maghreb, France had hesitated to extend to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco the visa requirements introduced on September 15 as part of a package of measures to combat terrorism. (All visitors to France, except nationals of EEC member countries and Switzerland, must now have visas. Demands by Austria and Sweden to be exempted from visa requirements have been refused.)

Up to now the only document Maghrebis nationals were required to show on entering France was a simple airline boarding pass. The

making us take special temporary measures. We are moved by the understanding showed by the Maghrebis countries on this subject. The ways and means of applying these measures will be decided in consultation with the states concerned.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to respond to some of the fears expressed by Arab ambassadors posted in Paris. France, he said, certainly intended "to take the necessary measures for combating terrorism, but it refuses to lump terrorism and the Arab world together." The government would explain to the French to beware of falling into such a "trap". Chirac, who was also accompanied by Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, warned: "France's policy towards the Arab world will not be influenced by terrorism: that policy will not change."

On this point, Chirac refined himself to two observations. "We hope there is less foreign interference in Lebanon," he said. And on the Soviet suggestion for a meeting of a preparatory committee to plan for an international conference on the Middle East, he said France approved it provided this was not an oblique way of burying the international conference itself. (October 5/6)

## US sale assures future of Airbus

DISORIENTED PERSONS will have a great time trimming down to relative size the importance of the spectacular deal to sell 100 Airbus A-320s to the United States' Northwest Airlines Inc. What we know of its terms suggests the contract imposes a minimum of constraints on the airline which has made a firm commitment to buy ten A-320s and has taken an option on the rest. Secondly, an Airbus A-320 costs \$33 million and weighs about a quarter of a Boeing 747 which, with a price tag of \$120 million, is selling very well today.

To these reservations has to be added the fact that Northwest Airlines' order will not help Airbus to avoid recording its lowest production total in recent years (about 30 in 1986). The European consortium is doggedly sticking to its production rate of 6.5 A-320s a

month, and the number of early retirements show no signs of flagging in the plants of Aerospatiale, British Aerospace, West Germany's MBBA and Spain's CASA. These considerations will ensure that Airbus directors do not grow complacent as they would like to show the same complacency as their American rivals who are now accustomed to selling hundreds of planes worth billions of dollars.

Nonetheless, the contract signed with Northwest Airlines is a striking success, which is all the more significant as it marks the coming of age of Airbus. It has been achieved at a time when a plunging dollar could have disadvantaged the European plane manufacturer. It may be recalled that when Airbus signed a contract with Pan Am in 1984, the dollar was worth F9.20 and today

it is hovering around F8.70.

The present contract has been signed with one of the most flourishing companies in the United States and not one in led shape. It also means that Boeing's counterattacks are not irresistible.

Now that the "little" A-320's breakthrough has been confirmed it should help in launching its brothers — the big twin-jet A-380 and the intercontinental four-jet A-340 which are waiting for the \$3.4 billion necessary for their development. It will perhaps also help the British government and British companies to see the inconsistency of a situation where Britain has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie but uses none of these planes on routes served by its airlines, and has ordered only seven of these A-320s which have won American approval. (October 3)

## Airline deregulation

A EUROPE of air transport is no less easy to bring about than an agricultural or monetary Europe. The uninitiated find this even harder to understand as air travel has consigned borders between countries to status of fossils.

Airlines have become the symbols of governmental authority and instruments of national strategy that states are loath to let them out of their hands. This is why air traffic between European states continues to be regulated by bilateral agreements that fix in detail the number of seats, the frequency of flights, an even apportioning of passenger capacities between the two countries concerned and, of course, the all-important fares.

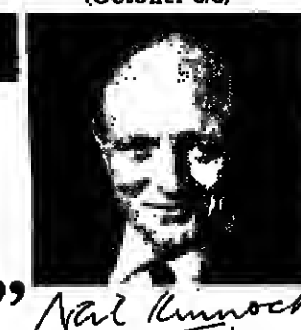
In the spring the European Court of Justice condemned this straitjacket of regulations as a violation of the Treaty of Rome, and called upon the Council of Ministers in Brussels to liberalise EEC air transport by 1992.

So once again, the transport ministers of the 12 EEC nations met in London on October 3 to work out a compromise solution between diametrically opposed positions. The "Latin" — Greece and Italy — want no change at all. The "moderates" — West Germany and France — propose to increase competitiveness on a graduated basis by granting fluctuations of 45 to 55 per cent and in two years of time of 40 to 60 per cent to national carriers. The "liberals" — Britain and Holland — want to be able to let market forces operate freely, at once.

(October 5/6)

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## Has Jacques Chirac grown up at last?

By Jean-Marie Colombani

VICTORY IN 1988. The right's victory, his victory, of course. So speaks Jacques Chirac, as the leader of his own side, confident of himself and overbearing. In politics, naturally. For on the question of public security and fighting terrorism, the Prime Minister continues to juggle dangerously with proclamations of firmness and its opponents. And yet (the contradiction is only apparent), Chirac has rarely been able to take advantage of a policy line that is "on the whole positive" on this point.

Opinion polls, elections, the state of the ruling Majority, the governing team — everything is going swimmingly. The public is in fact not far from voting over-whelmingly in favour of a Prime Minister who shoots up 12 points in the monthly popularity ratings conducted by *SOFRES-Figaro Magazine*, while electoral projections by *BVA-Paris Match* put him running neck and neck with François Mitterrand in a run-off presidential election after a first round which has gone heavily in the right's favour.

This Majority has, moreover, just experienced a fine electoral Sunday: a Senate which has now become bipartisan and is becoming increasingly unlikely to turn centrist; and especially a very promising election in the Haute Garonne. It is significant that with a year and half to go before the presidential election, they are already talking about a run-off election in both the RPR (Chirac's *Rassemblement pour la République*) and the UDF (Union pour la Démocratie Française, the coalition headed by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Jean Lecanuet). And for this run-off election, all eyes are fixed on one man — Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the hard right Front National. On this point, the setback suffered by the Front



Chirac: lucky streak

National in last week's by-election in the Haute Garonne (where the Front National collected 8.7 per cent of the vote, beating the Communist Party into fourth place) was most promising for Chirac, for it showed that a not inconsiderable segment of the extreme right's electorate was standing firmly by government policy.

If this decline is confirmed, it will eliminate the main threat hanging over the run-off election, the threat of a Le Pen electorate's votes not going in favour of the right's candidate. On this point, Le Pen has missed the bus. Terrorism gave him an opportunity to achieve the respectability he is seeking by joining in the national consensus. Instead, tempted by radicalisation, he took the opposite course.

As for Chirac, he never fails to grasp his advantages and make

the most of both his adversaries' and his partners' weak points. He gives the appropriate speech at the appropriate time and commits himself to a Majority pact just when the UDF is wavering and the interests of national union prevent other possible leaders of the right from rising up to point out their differences.

Public confidence, good election prospects, a sewn-up Majority: Chirac has another big card up his sleeve in the person of Edouard Balladur (Finance Minister). Balladur is without a doubt the man who is running the show. With him Chirac can make people feel that at his right hand is a man who, in the public's eyes, is a match for Raymond Barre (former Finance and Prime Minister). This man, previously unknown to the public, has moreover emerged as

one of the stars of the Majority, ranking sixth in the list with a 28 per cent popularity rating. While Chirac plays the president, Balladur is prime minister. So, as Chirac points out, doesn't this team deserve "to continue the work it's doing"?

A little less than a year ago, the two men forged a risky strategy underpinned by a dual calculation — power-sharing could work if there was agreement with the President on a different interpretation of the constitution; the lead established by Barre could be wiped out by the advantages of the legislative victory and the government. The strategy required Chirac to step into the most exposed post, that of Prime Minister.

Today, Chirac alone is not responsible for a situation which has become exceptionally favourable. The President and chance have also something to do with it.

The President gave the signal for national union — "when it comes to combating terrorism, we go hand-in-hand," he told the Prime Minister on September 15 — and the mood of unity which has been established is facilitating Chirac's task. At the same time, Mitterrand's attitude, which is guided by the principle that "the government governs" is for the moment resulting in this incredible paradox of putting the Socialist Party (which, like it or not, is still the President's party) in a position where it finds itself more destabilised than the right.

In addition, in the present circumstances, Barre is caught in a squeeze. He will have to wait in silence (he has consistently preached against power-sharing and predicted a crisis) until the facts prove him right. And very soon he will have to cope with the mechanisms of party solidarity set

up within the Majority by and for Chirac.

Where Chirac has been lucky of course is that the UDF has collapsed. The UDF is more than ever a sum of rival personalities who are all facilitating the process of vassalisation begun on March 18 with the help of François Léotard.

So much so that ultimately the question could be whether the UDF will be able to name (and support) "its" candidate to the presidential election. The question above all is whether it is not in the Prime Minister's interest to hasten that day, in short to put an end to power sharing. Why indeed wait and grow stale again once the mood of national unity passes off, the "living conditions of the French", as Socialist Party Secretary Lionel Jospin puts it, will once more become a major concern of the country.

But it is hard to see how Chirac could go along with such a line. For there is still very strong public feeling against any sort of political crisis. Chirac himself would doubtless lose the benefits of his long patience which helped him to live down his reputation as a nervous character. And, finally, it is the President alone who can fix the timetable for an election.

Now as ever time is Mitterrand's trump card. And temperament is Chirac's biggest handicap. It is this temperament which prompts him to promise one thing one moment and the opposite the next, when he is not playing it double or quite every day. Witness the ambiguity of the line he is taking with Syria. "His problem," Georges Pompidou used to say, "will be growing up." In fact, the presence of Balladur at his side and Mitterrand above him is forcing him to behave as if he has grown up. But has he really?

(October 3)

## Italian anti-nuclear campaign builds up steam

ROME — The future of civilian nuclear energy has become a major political issue in Italy in the past few weeks. Those who advocate doubling the number of nuclear power plants already existing, under construction or planned — from three to six units — are now very much in a minority. (Italy currently has only one big nuclear plant on stream at Caorso in the Po valley; another is at a very advanced stage of construction at Montalto, north of Rome; and work has started on a third plant at Trino Vercellese, in the Piedmont.)

Until early September, the anti-nuclear campaign was for the most part carried on by a hodge-podge of environmentalist groups of various political persuasions. Only the smaller parties like the Radical Party (11 Deputies) and the Proletarian Democratic Party (seven Deputies) carried such views into the Italian parliament. The Radical Party, in particular, took the initiative in the spring of collecting 500,000 signatures in view of a forthcoming referendum on the subject.

Things took quite a different turn however when the deputy leader of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), Claudio Martelli, declared that the time had now come for Italy to abandon civilian nuclear energy altogether. Now the PSI's position until then had been that nuclear energy was at least a necessary evil and that the country had a duty to make use of it to meet even a small part of its electricity needs. Last November, the party approved the untimely draft of a "national energy plan" which provided for Italy to be

producing, by the beginning of the next century, 8 per cent of its electrical power from nuclear plants as against the present 3.8 per cent. And at the Tokyo summit conference only days after the Chernobyl disaster, the party's leader, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, signed apparently without any qualms the seven-page document stating that the peaceful utilisation of the atom was indispensable for the development of industrialised countries.

Martelli's statement therefore caused a sensation. As it was made shortly after his return from the congress of the West German Socialist Party (SDP), there was some talk of his suffering from the "Nuremberg syndrome" — from the name of the German city where the SDP had just formally voted in favour of halting the construction of nuclear power plants in the West Germany. The PSI's adversaries — and they are legion even in the ruling coalition headed by this party — spoke of "duplicité" and even an "Italian-style comedy". Quipped Olegio La Malfa, the No 2 figure in the Republican Party: "The Socialist Party is nuclear with Reagan and anti-nuclear with Marco Pannella (leader of the Radical Party)." The judgment of La Malfa, a staunch supporter of the atom, could only be reinforced when Craxi himself rushed to defend his deputy in an article he contributed (under a pseudonym, of course) to the Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti*.

Martelli protested he was no turncoat. Shortly after Chernobyl, the PSI had in fact called for a pause to think things over. And

the second Craxi government's programme, finalised at the end of July by its five coalition partners (Socialists, Christian Democrats, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats) provided for a decision to be taken only after a national conference on the subject, which would be held in December. This PSI's opponents — and they are legion even in the ruling coalition headed by this party — spoke of "duplicité" and even an "Italian-style comedy". Quipped Olegio La Malfa, the No 2 figure in the Republican Party: "The Socialist Party is nuclear with Reagan and anti-nuclear with Marco Pannella (leader of the Radical Party)." The judgment of La Malfa, a staunch supporter of the atom, could only be reinforced when Craxi himself rushed to defend his deputy in an article he contributed (under a pseudonym, of course) to the Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti*.

What electoral scheming, protested Societate. They argue that Italy, which only very cautiously and reluctantly opened the door to without causing an upheaval and go back to coal and methane "while waiting for controlled fusion to come on stream in the very near future." Not avoiding the kind of risk recently experienced by the Ukrainians with such a small sacrifice? In its local offices

By Jean-Pierre Cléro

party were eager to accuse the PSI of betraying its electoral obligations by espousing a cause apparently so obviously popular in Italy. Commentators pointed out more subtly that Craxi's party was taking this stand in view of the possibility that the Radical Party might go into voluntary liquidation and leave behind one million voters waiting to be picked up by its more attractive neighbour.

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the Italian Socialist Party has already begun a very active campaign against nuclear power plants.

The PSI's turn would appear to have liberated the Italian Communist Party (PCI), whose grassroots following split almost evenly down the middle at the recent congress in Florence with the prospect of triumphing over the atom by a hair's-breadth. In the last fortnight or so, quite high-level Communist officials have been coming out with statements very hostile to nuclear energy. The party's deputy leader, Achille Occhetto, moreover took part in a public rally in the Piedmont to protest against the construction of a new power plant. At the traditional festival of the party paper *Unità* on September 14, the party secretary-general Alessandro Natta hinted his party could possibly even support the Radicals' anti-nuclear referendum.

But the PCI has also to reckon with a hardcore of nuclear defenders clustered around its nuclear physicists, whose arguments are not so easy to budge. They particularly like to compare Italy with Japan — a country with a high risk of earth tremors — which is just as dependent on external supplies of energy and is still at the forefront of progress and yet 44 nuclear power plants are on stream or are under construction there today.

The PCI could opt for a "graduated way out" — closing down old small power plants immediately, halting construction work on all new nuclear power plants and

setting a reasonably distant deadline for closing down the only operational plant (Coors) and halting the work, which is at a very advanced stage, of this Montalto plant. The PCI has, moreover, realised that with the nuclear topic it could hope to build a solid enough bridge towards the Socialist Party and the left. This would be one way of breaking out of its isolation which has lasted seven years.

The Christian Democratic Party, which after 40 years of holding office without a break, is primarily responsible for Italy's present nuclear situation, is forced to take a cautiously conservative line. As a party of the people, it knows that atoms are unpopular, and it must take account of that. But it also knows that a cutback of a few half-points in growth and a percentage point or so increase in inflation, which is bound to be caused by a hasty shutting down of nuclear power plants, will doubtless be force of habit be held against it. This party's secretary, Ciriaco De Mita, has therefore recommended its members not to commit themselves on the subject until December's national conference.

As a matter of fact, things appear to have been already settled — theoretically at least: the answer will be "no" to nuclear power plants. But as it so often happens in Italy, carrying out decisions in practice could turn out to be a cautious, in short as slow a process as the construction of the power plants has been, in spite of receiving regular approval from the people's representatives.

(September 30)

HARARE — Was it a simple coincidence that the recently opened shopping centre in the heart of the Zimbabwean capital bore the name Karigamombe? The word, in Shona, means "he who felled the ox" — a clear reference to Zimbabwe's African Minister Robert Mugabe. After all, hasn't all political activity in the country in the past few months been centred around the merger "under the same umbrella" of the party in power, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), and its rival, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), whose symbol is precisely the ox.

Expectations of such a tidying up had been hinted at when the eighth summit of the Movement of Non-aligned Nations took place recently in Harare. Indeed, Mugabe would not have been displeased to appear before his fellow prime ministers as a peace-maker; nor would it have displeased Joshua Nkomo, ZAPU's leader, to finally stop playing the role of a political "outcast". The Zimbabwean authorities in fact weighed the risks of the operation and did not want to invite surprises and disturbances just when the eyes of the whole world were focused on Harare.

Both sides are determinedly optimistic about the negotiations, which are dragging on with many ups and downs, coming to a successful conclusion shortly. "Mr Nkomo isn't making any more wild demands," noted an observer. The veteran nationalist leader merely wants an honourable end to a quarrel going back to the days of white Rhodesia and the war of independence. He is already said to have agreed that the merger should take place under the ZANU banner and that only a part of the ZAPU central committee should be absorbed into ZANU's central committee. The man who is regarded

## 'Father of Zimbabwe' looking for an honourable exit



Nkomo: broken

as "the Father of Zimbabwe" is reported to have confided: "God will not let me enter paradise if I don't succeed in making peace."

For his part, Mugabe facilitated matters by releasing, some weeks ago, about 60 political prisoners, including several top ZAPU officials who had been accused of plotting against the Zimbabwean Prime Minister. And he has promised to review the cases of those still in prison, whose number he puts at "less than 200". Among those held since 1982 is General Dumiso Dabengwa, Nkomo's heir apparent and head of ZIPRA, the former ZAPU army. The question is whether Dabengwa's supporters will consider the release of this "hardliner" as an essential prerequisite for national reconciliation.

The reconciliation is causing problems inside ZANU itself, for it will inevitably lead to a shift in the power balance within the party and the government. All those who

fear they will pay the price of the operation are naturally trying to hold it up and even sabotage it. The reconciliation is also likely to result in a different ethnic mix in the composition of governing bodies, probably with Mugabe's own Zesurus and Nkomo's Ndebele getting a bigger share at the expense of the Karanges and the Manicas, the other two ethnic groups in the government.

Provincial governors, who until now have been taking advantage of such divisions to carve out private fiefdoms for themselves, are not very pleased either by such political prospects. As for grassroots activists, they are hating a head time reconciling themselves to the thought that their counterparts in ZAPU, who have



Mugabe: tidying up

independence stolen from them and aware that sooner or later they will be swallowed up by ZANU, they know they do not have much to lose. The Zimbabwean authorities fear South Africa may try to exploit such "dissidence" by keeping up the pressure — at little cost to itself — in Nkomo's stronghold of Matabeleland.

For the moment the dissidences in the "rebellious" province of Matabeleland is less active. On the initiative of John Laurie, former chairman of the Union of Commercial Farmers, the protection of local farmers has been entrusted to a 260-strong militia unit paid by the government. The dreaded North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade is no longer rampaging in the region where it used to perpetrate the most unspeakable acts of violence. The regular army has been operating in the region for the past

three years and it is behaving properly towards the people. A sixth brigade is at present being recruited for taking over its work.

This does not mean that human rights violations are a thing of the past. The militia and the party's youth organisation are still behaving extremely aggressively towards anyone they consider, rightly or wrongly, to be a political opponent. Enos Nkala, the viceroy's Home Affairs Minister, has a special police and investigative corps operating directly under his orders and it does not hesitate to resort to torture — especially torture by water and electric shock — to extract confessions from "suspects".

"The human rights violations that Amnesty International has exposed are not theoretical cases," agree many observers. Understandably therefore, the local authorities recently branded Amnesty International as an "enemy of the nation" and are today frantically trying to run its correspondents to earth. "They feel it is all the more necessary to discredit this organisation now because the day all political prisoners are freed Amnesty will realise that hundreds are still missing and it will not be able to remain silent."

It is one thing to merge two political parties, but quite a different matter to reunite the Zimbabwean people. This is a much more complicated task. "Matabeleland's irreverence is not about to disappear," point out observers. "There'll always be incidents which will serve as excuses for further disturbances." The Ndebele do in fact feel a greater kinship with their southern neighbours, the Transvaal Zulus, with whom they once formed a vast empire, than with their neighbours to the north, the Shona who are now ruling in Harare. (September 24)

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1 bottle Cote du Rhone 1984, Red

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1 bottle Macaulay 1984, White

1 bottle Cote du Rhone 1984, Blanc

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011 Sparkling Wine Case £14.70

6 bottles Veuve de la Veuve Brut

011 French Wine Case £26.70

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## The Washington Post

### After Sanctions

THE Senate did what it had to do in overriding President Reagan's veto of South African sanctions. Especially for Republicans who went against their own chief, it was a painful vote. But it was also necessary, given the urgent requirements at this point to mute the signals of American equivocation on apartheid, although not deliberately, by the White House. It was necessary to demonstrate that across the spectrum of American politics, opposition to apartheid burns.

Some Republican senators seemed genuinely surprised and offended to find South Africa's foreign minister reminding them that sanctions are a game two can play — that South Africa might retaliate by halting purchases of American grain and by denying transit of grain to black-ruled states next door. But it is myopic not to understand that Pretoria believes it is fighting a war for survival — for the cultural if not the physical survival of the Afrikaner community. It has very substantial weapons to bring to bear, including the capacity and taste to make much of the burden fall on its black citizens and neighbors. This is not an argument against sanctions meant to accelerate political change. It is an argument for going into sanctions with open eyes.

In shorthand this is a sanctions bill. Actually the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 is an unusually ambitious and detailed statement of a broad political strategy in which various sticks and carrots are offered not only to draw the South African government toward a just society but to draw black political organizations, including the African National Congress, toward American standards of nonviolence and democracy. Such a strategy, however, cannot conceivably be pursued by congressional directive alone. It requires the active and sympathetic cooperation of the president, and it begs belief to think that Ronald Reagan is going to embrace the myriad tasks of daily policy-making that Congress has prescribed for him. This was always the danger of a policy in whose making both parts of the government, and both parties, did not share.

So this is no moment for unrestrained cheering. Rather, it is a moment for sober deliberation by all of the American actors on how some semblance of working policy unity can be restored. The object, after all, is not simply to get on the right side of history. It is to help move South Africa — the power on one side, the society on the other — toward political consensus. Responsible people at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue must put behind them the draining sanctions battle and accept that urgent agenda. Otherwise, the sanctions are nothing.

### The Test In Iceland

IF something had to be paid, and it did, then the United States came out of the Daniloff affair better than it looked for a while. Nicholas Daniloff was freed without a trial — "vindicated," as he put it — although the nasty precedent of hoking up spy charges against a journalist remains. One of the great moral lights of the Soviet Union, the dissident Yuri Orlov, is also now freed. Progress was made, though more is needed, on clamping down on Soviet spying at the United Nations. Ronald Reagan got the early summit meeting he was after — it is to be called a preparatory meeting — without meeting Mikhail Gorbachev's pressure-cooker condition of prior assurance of an arms control agreement.

In return, like all accused Soviet spies before him, Gennadi Zakharov goes home, but only after a no-contest plea that equates with guilt. Moscow keeps alive the issue of UN staffing for presentation at the Reykjavik meeting. General Secretary Gorbachev also gets the opportunity, in Iceland, to press further his arms control case. The incident already has become established in hard-line lore as one of the more unforgeable American humiliations since the war. A broader public, however, is likely to be respectful of Mr. Reagan for finally avoiding any strict equivalence between the two prisoners and for banding the Daniloff case in a way that does not seem to prejudice pending negotiations.

Certainly there is no call to regard this sequence of events as some do, as a healthy and timely demonstration of damage control. The chemistry of great-power relations, and of Soviet and American politics as they affect those relations, is too unpredictable for such a sanguine reading. It is enough that the search for substantive agreement, which is far more important than simply movement toward a summit meeting, can be resumed.

Iceland: One hopes it turns out to be an ironic name, not an apt name, for a Soviet-American meeting place. There has been much talk of whether one side or the other needed a summit meeting at all, or needed one more. This essentially tendentious question must now yield to specific planning, in a very short time, for a session that will serve American interests.

At this second meeting of the two leaders, getting acquainted and touring the horizon are inadequate goals. The circumstances and especially the early date argue for a businesslike tone, a short agenda, an emphasis on the practical as opposed to the conceptual and, as always, an absence of illusions. In wrapping up the Daniloff affair, President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz were at pains to treat the Soviet Union as a competent negotiating partner with whom further business could be done. That is the test at Reykjavik.

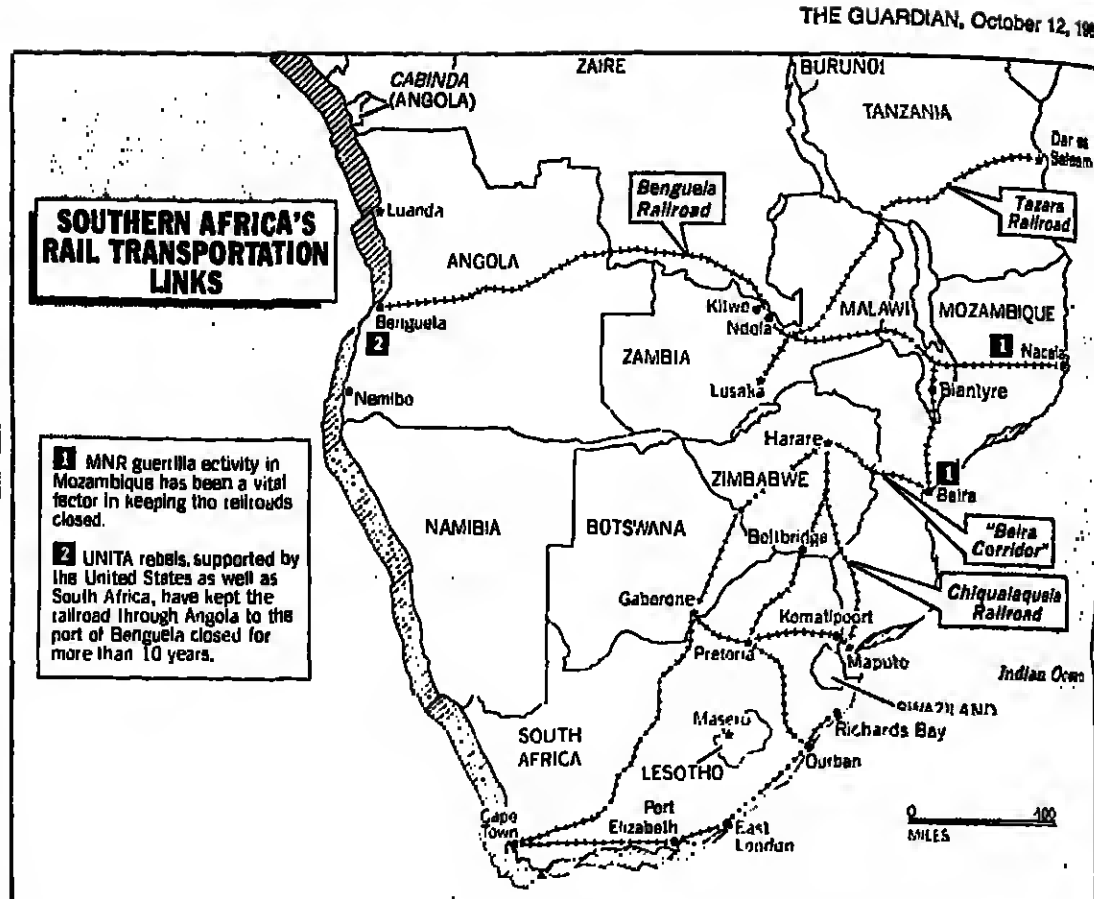
### Missile Agreement

Continued from page 16

reassuring his allies about his commitment to reducing the dangers of an outbreak of war. Soviet counterdeployments of short-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia following the 1984 stationing of Pershing and cruise missiles to veiled letters of complaint in the East Berlin and Prague communist party newspapers.

Some Western European commentators have argued that an INF decision, coming on the eve of national elections in West Ger-

many next January, would boost the chances of the ruling center-right coalition in Bonn, which Moscow has treated coldly since it approved the deployments of Pershing and cruise missiles in 1983. But Soviet analysts of Western European affairs admitted privately that incumbent Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his conservative coalition will probably be reelected anyway against the Social Democratic Party, more favored by Moscow.



### Pretoria's Stranglehold On Neighbours

HARARE, Zimbabwe — There was a moment's silence while the white executive who works as an economic technician for southern Africa's black governments did some rapid desk-top calculations.

Then he looked up and answered the region's crucial question. "Yes," he said, "we could survive retention sanctions by South Africa, but it would require fairly massive initial assistance. I'd say \$3 billion over four years."

Edward G. Cross is the key figure in what has been described as southern Africa's tracheotomy operation — the opening up of a transportation passage that will enable South Africa's neighboring black states to continue breathing if the white-ruled republic responds to international sanctions by trying to choke them to death.

He heads a nine-nation coordinating committee that is directing a crash program to reconstruct the "Beira corridor," a 400-mile rail-road, highway and oil-pipeline route connecting Zimbabwe's capital of Harare with Mozambique's Indian Ocean port of Beira.

The corridor is one of six outlets that the landlocked "front-line states" bordering South Africa have to the sea. Four are inoperable because of lack of maintenance and sabotage by South African-backed insurgents. The other two are in a badly run-down state.

The result is that the front-line states depend on South Africa's transportation network for 88 percent of their vital import-export trade. It means that as the call for sanctions to force South Africa to abandon apartheid, which as black states they feel morally obliged to do, they run the risk of crippling retaliation by Pretoria.

South Africa is also in a position to use them as economic hostages, threatening to strangle them if the major powers move toward total sanctions.

South Africa already has demonstrated its ability to do this. After Zimbabwe and Zambia announced in July that they would apply Commonwealth sanctions against South Africa, Pretoria ordered go-down inspections of all trains and trucks crossing its northern borders and demanded a stiff customs deposit for all Zambian imports crossing its territory. The economic effects were felt in these countries immediately.

Cross's committee was formed last year to break this stranglehold. It was initiated by an alli-

ance of nine black states called the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), established in 1980 to maximize regional cooperation and reduce the countries' dependence on South Africa.

The port of Beira once handled 80 percent of the trade from this region before 20 years of guerrilla warfare and economic collapse in Mozambique reduced it to a dilapidated and barely functional outlet. Now Cross's committee has embarked on a \$300 million project to restore the corridor and harbor.

#### By Allister Sparks

The emergency first phase of the project will be completed in December, Cross said in a recent interview here. Beira and the other operational route — the Tazara railroad that runs from Zambia to the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam — then will be able to handle 60 percent of the front-line states' trade, he explained.

The second phase is scheduled for completion in mid-1989. After that, Cross said, the front-line states will be able to handle all their own trade and their dependence on South Africa's transportation system will cease.

The interim period is the worrying time for them, when they still will be vulnerable to retaliatory action by Pretoria. This is what Cross was referring to when he said that the front-line states would survive if South Africa closed its borders to them before phase two of the Beira corridor project is completed.

"We would need a bridge," Cross said. "We would have to prioritize our exports and stockpile some. We would have to fly in vital specialist commodities like aviation fuel."

"We would face massive problems reorienting our supplies and markets, but with help we could survive. After four years we'd be okay."

The corridor project has been given priority rating by the SADCC states, and the railroad track is being relaid at the rate of half a mile a day. The next step will be to deepen the port of Beira so that it can take bigger ships, and to repair the derelict wharves.

According to Cross, train speeds already have increased from a pathetic 10 miles an hour to 40 miles an hour, and the time for the journey from Harare to Beira has

been cut from four days to 12 hours.

Freight tonnages have been doubled from 600 to 1,200 tons, and the number of demurrals reduced. "In six months last year there were 64 demurrals," Cross said. "The trains just fell off the tracks, which kept breaking. Now we hardly have any."

Attacks by marauding rebel bands of the Mozambique National Resistance movement remain a problem. The rebels periodically blow up the track, the bridges and the oil pipeline. Sometimes they shoot up the trains. Zimbabwe has an estimated 12,000 troops in Mozambique helping to guard the corridor.

The corridor project is being financed by western aid, mainly from the Netherlands and Scandinavia. Canada and France are financing a smaller project to open up another railroad from Malawi to the northern Mozambique port of Nacala, which is scheduled for completion about the same time.

The front-line states contend that disruption of the transportation routes to force greater dependency on South Africa is a key aspect of Pretoria's strategy. They accuse South Africa of using force to do this — UNITA in Angola, the MNR in Mozambique, as well as mercenaries and dissidents who have moved south into the white-ruled republic.

Technicians like Cross agree with this assessment, but point out that lack of maintenance during 20 years of civil war in Mozambique and Angola has also caused the railroads and port facilities to deteriorate badly.

Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels, who are supported by the United States as well as South Africa, have kept the railroad through southern Angola to the Atlantic Ocean port of Benguela closed for more than 10 years. This used to be the main trade route for Zambia and Zaire, both of which are major copper exporters.

Today, Zambia and Zaire get most of their imports through South Africa. Zambia sends its copper northward along the slow and limited-capacity Tazara line to Dar es Salaam.

The other three closed routes all run through Mozambique. They are from Malawi's main commercial city of Blantyre to the northern Mozambique port of Nacala, from Blantyre to Beira, and from Harare to Mozambique's southern port and capital of Maputo.

## Reagan Denies Libya Plan Involved 'Disinformation'

By David Hoffman

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said last week that he wanted to make Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi "go to bed every night wondering what he might do" to deter terrorism, but he decided that a plan he approved in August involved the spread of "disinformation" through the American news media.

He was responding to a report (below) that the administration launched a secret effort of deception aimed at convincing Gadhafi that he was about to be attacked again by U.S. bombers and perhaps ousted in a coup.

The secret plan was outlined in a three-page memo sent to Reagan by national security adviser John M. Poindexter. It called for "real and illusory events" — through a disinformation program — with the basic goal of making Gadhafi think that there is a high degree of internal opposition to him within Libya, that his key trusted aides are disloyal, that the U.S. is about to move against him militarily.

Other administration officials said last week that the plan was approved by Reagan in a secret National Security Decision

Directive that authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to spread false information about Gadhafi abroad and also ordered a series of U.S. military movements designed to frighten the Libyan leader.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz told reporters in New York that he knew of "no decision to have people go out and tell lies to the media" but that "if there are ways in which we can make Gadhafi nervous, why shouldn't we? Frankly, I don't have any problems with a little psychological warfare against Gadhafi. It's very easy. You people in the media enjoy not allowing the United States to do anything in secret, if you can help it." Shultz noted Winston Churchill's statement in World War II that "in time of war the truth is so precious it must be attended by a bodyguard of lies."

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Poindexter had told him there was no effort to spread disinformation in the American media. Speakes said a report in The Wall Street Journal about Libya last August included intelligence information on Gadhafi that was "generally correct," although

he said the newspaper had included "inflammatory stuff" in its report. After the Journal story appeared Aug. 25, Speakes described it as "authoritative." Speakes said last week that he had no comment on whether the administration had spread false information about Gadhafi outside the United States.

Reagan, meeting with a group of newspaper columnists and broadcast commentators at the White House, at first said, "I challenge the veracity of that entire story" published in The Post. But he then said the administration had been paying close attention to Gadhafi and "I can't deny" that "here and there, they're going to have something to hang it on." Asked whether there were memos describing a deliberate effort to mislead the American people, Reagan said: "Those I challenge. They were not a part of any meeting I've ever attended."

Pressed further about whether the administration intentionally put out false information, Reagan recalled arguments about using nuclear weapons in Vietnam while he was California governor. "And I

said at the time that, while we knew that we were never going to use nuclear weapons there, we should never say that," he said. "We should just let them go to bed every night wondering whether we might use those weapons. Well, the same thing is true with someone like Gadhafi and with all the speculation that was going on in the media throughout the world about whether our action would tempt him into further acts or not. "And constantly there were questions — aimed at me as to were we planning anything else. My feeling was, I wouldn't answer those questions. My feeling was just the same thing — he should go to bed every night wondering what we might do."

A senior administration official closely involved with the Libya plan took issue with The Post account in a briefing for newspaper columnists and broadcasters at the White House. He described as "absolutely false" the "implication that somehow the U.S. government had initiated or that the president had authorized a program of disinformation for the American media." He added, "You

must distinguish between the nuances, you must distinguish between deception and disinformation."

The administration plan drew criticism last week from editors of major news organizations and from experts on terrorism. "I think it was one of the most important and depressing stories I've read in a long time," said A.M. Rosenthal, executive editor of The New York Times. "The implications that our government was sitting around figuring out how to lie to the press makes me rather ill. It makes you ask a lot of questions. Who authorized this kind of thing? Has it happened before? Who's going to believe those people again?"

Robert Kupperman, an expert on terrorism, called the disinformation campaign "embarrassing" and compared it to the Central Intelligence Agency's plan to sabotage the public image of Cuban leader Fidel Castro by dusting his shoes with a chemical to make his beard fall out. "If we're really going to go after the guy," he said, "we ought to kill him."

## Secret Campaign Of Deception To Destabilise Gadhafi

WASHINGTON — In August the Reagan administration launched a secret and unusual campaign of deception designed to convince Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi that he was about to be attacked again by U.S. bombers and perhaps be ousted in a coup, according to informed sources and documents. The secret plan, adopted at a White House meeting on Aug. 14, was outlined in a three-page memo that John M. Poindexter, the president's national security adviser, sent to President Reagan.

"One of the key elements" of the new strategy, the Poindexter memo said, "is that it combines real and illusory events — through a disinformation program — with the basic goal of making Gadhafi think there is a high degree of internal opposition to him within Libya, that his key trusted aides are disloyal, that the U.S. is about to move against him militarily."

It was an elaborate plan: "a series of closely coordinated events involving covert, diplomatic, military and public actions," according to Poindexter's memo. Military officers expressed some reservations about the plan, and intelligence specialists were deeply divided about its potential efficacy. The plan was the latest phase of the administration's policy, first adopted last year, to try to topple Gadhafi, a known instigator of terrorist acts and targeted by the administration as a threat that has to be removed.

Beginning with an Aug. 25 report in The Wall Street Journal, the American news media — including The Washington Post — reported as fact much of the false information generated by the new plan. Published articles described runaway Libyan backing for terrorism and a looming new U.S.-Libya confrontation. But U.S. intelligence officials had actually concluded in August that Gadhafi was "quiescent" on the terrorist front, according to the Poindexter memo. The only "confrontation" was the one generated by the administration plan, according to sources and administration planning papers.

During September, however, U.S. intelligence agencies assembled evidence that Libya had begun planning a significant number of terrorist attacks, and some senior officials are concerned that this is in part a response to the administration's latest campaign against Gadhafi. Of greatest concern to U.S. officials are reports considered reliable but still inconclusive that Libya had a direct hand in the Sept. 5 attack on Pan American World Airways Flight 073 at Karachi airport in Pakistan and provided logistical support for the terrorist, according to informed sources.

When the administration's secret deception plan was launched in August, officials acknowledged in internal memos that it

might provoke Gadhafi into new terrorist acts. But senior officials decided that the potential benefits of the operation outweighed this risk. The objective of the plan was to keep Gadhafi "preoccupied" and "off balance" and to portray him as "paranoid and ineffective" so that, as the memo put it, "force within Libya which desire his overthrow will be emboldened to take action."

Poindexter's three-page memo to Reagan outlining the plan was drafted in preparation for a National Security Planning Group (NSPG) meeting convened to consider the next steps the administration would take against Gadhafi. The NSPG is the key Cabinet-level forum in which Reagan and his top aides discuss and make decisions on the most sensitive foreign-policy matters. The president, Poindexter and nine other officials met at the White House to discuss this plan at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. Sources said the basic plan was approved and codified in general terms in a

formal presidential decision document. Details of the plan were left to Poindexter, the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Soon after the meeting administration officials told reporters that the United States had new intelligence indicating that Gadhafi was again stepping up his terrorist Libya. But Poindexter's memo to Reagan, following a four-month lull after the April 14 American bombing raid against Libya, said Gadhafi's policy was "quiescent." "Although the current intelligence-community assessment is that Gadhafi is temporarily quiescent in his support of terrorism, he may soon move to a more active role."

Other sources confirmed that there was no significant, reliable intelligence in mid-August to suggest that Gadhafi was stepping up his terrorist plans.

But the State Department and the CIA concluded that it might be an opportune moment to execute the coup de grace against the Libyan leader. A White House planning document sent to CIA Director William J. Casey before the Aug. 14 meeting said: "Gadhafi's aura of invincibility has been shattered, his prestige is badly tarnished and his grip on power seems precarious."

But, administration analysts evidently were of two minds. The Poindexter memo to Reagan, written at the same time said: "Most intelligence estimates conclude that in spite of new tensions and Gadhafi's own shock, depression and impaired performance following the April 14 raid, he is still firmly in control in Libya."

Over the summer, the administration considered but rejected mining the harbors of Libya, sources said. The anti-Gadhafi forces that the CIA had been supporting proved weak and disorganized, the sources said. All of the efforts against Gadhafi were apparently thwarted by his personal security force and a network of informers in Libya and among Libyan exiles.

Officials acknowledged in their internal discussions that the deception plan was risky. "Gadhafi may lash out against Americans and regional friends with terror and subversion," said the White House memo sent to Casey. But the administration concluded that potential benefits outweighed any dangers. "There are risks," that memo said. "However, the benefits of a successful policy demand that every appropriate effort be made to achieve our objectives."

Senior officials said Reagan, Casey and Secretary of State George P. Shultz are particularly determined to remove Gadhafi. As Poindexter said in his August memo, the purpose of taking additional steps against

Libya was to deter terrorism, moderate Libyan policies and "bring about a change of leadership in Libya. . . . The administration has concluded that, as the Poindexter memo said, "any alternative leadership to Gadhafi would be better for U.S. interests and international order."

The mid-August plan approved by Reagan did not specifically call for the planting of false stories in the U.S. media. A State Department planning memo, however, did provide that "U.S. government backgrounds media on 1) three-ring circus in Libya with in-fighting among groups jockeying for post-Gadhafi era, 2) threat of resurgent terrorism. . . ."

The secret plan also called for "foreign media placements" by the CIA. When a report appeared on the front page of The Wall Street Journal on August 25 stating without qualification that "The U.S. and Libya are on a collision course again," it was embraced publicly by Poindexter and White House spokesman Larry Speakes, who called the article "authoritative." On the basis of those endorsements, other news organizations, including The Post, carried reports summarizing the information that initially appeared in The Journal. In subsequent days administration officials both affirmed and denied that there was new evidence of Libyan-backed terrorism, or that a new confrontation was in the offing. In response to a question to the White House about stories published in August on Libya, one official said: "The media deceived itself and the stories were hyped."

The Journal's August 25 story reported as fact various administration plans that were actually part of the deception plan described in the August memo. The report did not mention deception, the key ingredient in the plan. The paper quoted "a senior U.S. official" as saying of Gadhafi: "There are increasing signs that he's resumed planning and preparations for terrorist acts. According to the Poindexter memo to Reagan, there were no such signs."

The Journal wrote: "The Reagan administration is preparing to teach the mercurial Libyan leader another lesson. Right now, the Pentagon is completing plans for a new and larger bombing of Libya in case the president orders it."

In fact, the administration only had contingency plans for new military action that were several months old, and nothing new was being done, sources said. The Journal report said the administration was considering action through the African country of Chad to put pressure on Gadhafi, who has annexed a portion of Chad with about 6,000 Libyan troops. According to The Journal, "The deputy commander in chief of the U.S. European Command, Gen. Richard Lawson, quietly visited the poverty-stricken desert nation (of Chad) earlier this month to see whether (Chad) President (Hissene) Habre, with U.S. and French help, might be able to expel the Libyans."

In August, a State Department planning paper on the deception plan said: "Lawson's trip to Chad later this month provides an opportunity for disinformation to reach Gadhafi that the U.S. and France are developing contingency plans for a 'Chad Option.'"

Lawson visited Chad on Aug. 12 and 13, but State Department officials said recently that the United States never formally had discussions with France about joint action against the Libyan forces there. France has tacitly accepted the partition of Chad. The Chad aspect of the deception plan apparently grew out of a National Security Council memo dated Aug. 7, proposing that the United States attempt to " shame France into asserting itself" in Chad, a former French colony. The document suggested communicating through "military-to-military channels and not through the political channels which failed earlier this year. . . . Given the stated desire of some (French) general officers to cooperate with us against Gadhafi, we might actively encourage them to sell the proposal to their civilian leadership."

After The Journal and other news reports appeared describing the purported U.S. proposal to take joint action in Chad, sources said, the French voiced concern to the State Department. Instead of frightening Gadhafi, sources said, the disinformation scuttled possible cooperation with the French in Chad in the near future.

The August plan had a high-visibility military component. The White House memo to Casey said: "Over DGD (Department of Defense) and CIA, the plan was actually part of the deception plan described



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## Stripping bare a gypsy's passion

Gerald Larner reports from Glasgow on Scottish Opera's remarkable production of *Carmen*

AFTER a series of failures from its director of productions, neither Scottish Opera nor Graham Vick could afford another one — least of all on the symbolic occasion of John Mauceri's first appearance with the company since his appointment as its next music director. But the virtues of their new *Carmen* are so rare and so positive that it has to be the beginning of a reversal of Scottish Opera's failing fortunes.

There have been hopeful signs before in the last five years or so. This time it is different. Vick has set himself a prodigiously difficult task and has proved, in contradiction of doubts about his technical competence, that he can do it. Above all — and this is what is so rare about it — he has secured not only the agreement of the conductor but also his co-operation, so that the dramatic concept and the musical interpretation set out from the same point and are developed together.

The starting point is a bare stage, with no set and no furniture apart from four rows of chairs forming a square along the three walls and across the front. As the prelude and the company enters (in authentic Spanish costumes) and takes its seats as though at rehearsal. As required, they stand or sing from their chairs.

The only luxury Vick allows himself is a revolve, which provides a vortiginous walkway for the passers-by and which carries a section of flooring which can be raised to the vertical to form a wall with a doorway whenever concealment or a significant entry has to be made.

During the first act Mauceri conducts the music in much the same way as Vick directs the action — which is to say that it is precise and disciplined, factual rather than impassioned, with no such thing as a great Karajan-like surge of cello sound on the fate motif as *Carmen* fixes her attention on Don Jose for the first time. She performs the habanera sitting on the floor with her back against the wall. Her seguidilla later in the same act is slightly more animated. In the second act she

actually gets up on to the table to dance.

This is the clue to the way things are going. Scene by scene, act by act, the story comes to life, assuming its own kind of reality beyond the setting of the rehearsal room. As the emotions develop, the atmosphere intensifies, but still with such restraint and economy that the sunny lighting and the modestly picturesque detail of the street vendors at the fiesta in the last act look like a riot of colour.

At the same time the musical message is ever more urgently communicated — not to the point where it becomes overwhelming, but that has at least as much to do with the casting as the conducting.

One unexpected effect of this approach to the work is that it throws Micaela into such prominent relief — presumably because of the general reduction in colour around her. Certainly the producer takes advantage of the situation: it is she alone, dressed in mourning for his mother rather than a crowd of soldiers and bull fight fene, whom Don Jose has to face when he kills Carmen at the end.

Fortunately, in Jono Leelin Mackenzie, Scottish Opera has a Micaela of integrity in both personality and vocal line. Emily Golden — although, as one of Peter Brook's *Carmens*, she is used to this kind of thing — cannot equal her as a dramatic or, with her uncertain intonation, musical force. Gary Bachlund is a potentially lyrical but still fragile Don Jose.

Of course, it would be difficult for any cast to start from cold in the way of this production and, however precise and disciplined the direction, to survive four acts with the help of so few of the conventional theatrical resources.

At the same time they are coping with a new translation, which is always a problem, particularly for singers who have played the part before. Apparently, much of Anthony Burgess's text had to be changed during the rehearsals, but from what one can hear of it in the Theatre Royal, it seems witty and idiomatic enough to have been worth the trouble.

## Navy Tomcats on a hot tin roof

"If you two screw up, you'll be flying a cargo ship full of rubber dog shit out of Hong Kong," says an officer to the heroes of Tony Scott's *Top Gun*. The two concerned are pilots of F-14 Tomcats, costing \$38 million each and the pride of the US Navy Fighter Weapons School. It is, as you might imagine, a man's world, and it is one of the big hits of the season in the States.

*Top Gun* is British director Tony Scott's second film — his first was the fairly dire *The Hunger* — and the change is amazing. It is not quite so astonishing, however, when you think of his previous experience making commercials. This is, above all else, an over-the-top action picture, as set out by President Reagan and orchestrated by Hollywood that's at least still capable of icily efficient dream-fodder.

The film looks extremely wish as it goes through its notions of describing the tribulations of the young men being trained to defend the West against the Communist peril. Its aerial photography is sometimes superb, its portrait of a

military machine determined to be the best, officered by unambiguous zealots, is simplistic in the extreme but highly efficient, and its "human factor" allows for a very adolescent fantasy in the book.

Mechines of death glister in the sky and their occupants, constantly stripped in the shower rooms, seem like perfect specimens of gilded, audacious youth. This is a picture that never lets up, as if its arguments could not possibly be denied. Discipline yourself, believe in the cause and you too could be like this. And if you're a woman, you could marry one of them.

The stars are Tom Cruise as "Maverick," a pilot who dies with death in the effort to heat the memory of a father who might have been better than him but who died mysteriously; and Kelly McGillis as the girl who loves him, an astrophysical-cum-instructor who is not just a pretty face but a less neurotic toughie than he.

Somehow or another, Maverick has to be made part of a highly-trained team. Otherwise, Val Kilmer's "Iceman" will become *Top Gun* of the outfit, and we won't



Idle delights Nanki-Poo (Bonaventura Bottone) and Ko-Ko (Eric Idle) at the Coliseum.

## Not quite Yum-yum

Tom Sutcliffe on Miller's *Mikado*

THE *Mikado* has been repatriated. The gentlemen of Japan now at the Coliseum are very clearly denizens of the Athenaeum in the 1930s. Comic orientalism is out: the world of Miss Marple and Margaret Dumont is in. The *Mikado* is not about Japan, says Jonathan Miller following G. K. Chesterton's line that "all the jokes in the play fit the English, if they would put on the cap."

It's not even about English perceptions of Japan, as Bonheim's Pacific Overtures is about the American view of Japan. It's about a kind of dotty imperial twilight, says Miller, and the 'twenties being suitably fashionable on television) do nicely.

So Stefanos Lazaridis's all-white set is full of Lutyens and Rex Whistler, and Sue Blane dresses Pish-Tush in plus-fours, and Katisha in a turban-hat end goggles, with a long-fringed dress under her floor-length velvet great-coat, and Nanki-Poo in striped blazer, white ducks and boots.

Anthony van Laast choreographs chorus lines of leaping bellboys with red lips and rouged cheeks, and pony-prancing chambermaids with dainty heads, dresses and neat white Lyons corner-house aprons. Three little maids really are from school, in gimples tied with striped ties and carrying lacrosse rackets. The decor seals the illusion with ferns, grand piano, radiators and gramophone horn. It is all terrifically a la mode.

But The *Mikado* is not about

1920s England either, and Chesterton's hint that it works like Swift and Gulliver strikes me as wildly inflated and irrelevant. Like all operettas, The *Mikado* is only incidentally satirical at all: the secret of its success is that it is lightly, slightly romantic in a gently comic way, and the trick in performing it is to keep up the pace and/or support the fleeting reality of the emotions.

In a way Miller's Twenties trappings are even more specific and beside the point than the traditional Japonisme, yet Miller does not manage to evoke a tangible sense of an idealised world in which absurd and natural reactions clash divertingly together. Miller's *Mikado* is the prisoner of its updated image, so busy being knowing that it scarcely manages to trundle the tale along.

English National Opera have cast the show strongly, and there are some excellent performances. Richard Ven Allen is an ideal Pish-Bah, who gets his lines across absolutely in character but without resort to operatic annunciation. Bonaventura Bottone has a nicely complacent air as the jeune premier, Nanki-Poo. Felicity Palmer steals the show as overwillingly on her arrival as Katisha that her performance has nowhere else to go thereafter: the voice with its deadly accuracy and penetrating zeal could not be bettered.

Richard Angas's mountainous Mikado in a floppy Jonathan Miller-style white suit and panama hat moves away from his usual resp-

ing style to something more subtly dangerous. Susan Bullock and Jean Rigby make good impressions as Peep-Bo and Pitti-Sing. And above all Eric Idle's Ko-Ko (not badly sung incidentally, despite the competition from pro singers) is a superbly realised creation, baro-faced in its vaudevillean pranks — such as the corkscrew squirm with which he gets his tongue under the Mikado's nose, after the revelation of Nanki-Poo's royal lineage.

The trouble is that ENO's *Mikado* lacks pace and energy. The conductor Peter Robinson displays almost no sense of theatrical timing, and in the second act with its roster of not-so-motivated numbers things hang fire terribly. Van Laast's choreography becomes repetitive just when it should be moving and higher gear. And Miller, in his vastness of the Coliseum, labours to get lines over at the expense of vitality.

The clash of approaches between Idle and the rest is not exploited to make for much dramatic variation. Worst of all, Lesley Garrett's charmless Yum-Yum is self-conscious, mewling and — as so often — decidedly flat in her singing. Yum-Yum is not delicious as pleasing. The *Mikado* becomes rather a drag. That it should seem so so was excitingly demonstrated by both The Black Mink and more recently, Neil Sherrin's Metropolitan *Mikado*. ENO's production, but the verdict must be "modified rupture."

The navy not surprisingly figured prominently in his thinking, particularly during the alarming U-boet successes of that year which were made possible by the failure, soon happily overcome, to "decrypt" a new German naval Enigma, but it was on military matters — and bombing, where he was in complete agreement with Stalin — that Churchill had most ideas. He greatly enjoyed his visits to the different war zones. "Instead of sitting at home waiting for oews from the front," he wrote characteristically of his journey to Egypt in 1942, "I could send it myself."

The fact that the war became a coalition war with America's entry into it after Pearl Harbor was a guarantee of victory for Churchill, but there were to be as many arguments about strategy with Americans as there were with the Russians. Military coalition was more testing than political coalition.

superbly acted film is frequently spot-on. Anthony Hopkins as Bill would hardly be better. He gave through his pert like a ruffian devouring a dead body, and gave no one any sign that he is playing anything but a highly intelligent idiot. But Jim Broadbent as Roger is pretty good too — a nice guy who has dealt some genuinely cruel blows. And there is a splendid cameo from Simon Callow as the vile lawyer who stamps on Roger's long-suffering wife in order to win a battle that should never have been joined in the first place. The outlook of *The Good Father* is indelibly middle-class and is definitely middle-class. But it is a good thing that it is as explicit as *Top Gun* in its way, and the way of thing the British do better than anyone else. Those fashionable sissy bodies in the American press's showers are made to look wonderfully ridiculous by the sight of Hopkins gingerly undressing himself at the bidding of the young girl who seduces him in *The Good Father*. This is real life of a not bitingly askew.

## BOOKS

### Churchill on the attack

By Asa Briggs

ROAD TO VICTORY, by Martin Gilbert (Heinemann, £20).

THERE are many nuggets in this massive and magnificent seventh volume of Martin Gilbert's biography of Churchill. What is most impressive about it, however, is its range. Like the Second World War itself, this is a biography with many fronts: the well chosen titles of many of the 89 chapters proclaim it.

The scene is always changing, and if there is less about domestic matters than about the war itself this is because Churchill was for the most part interested only in winning the war. As Clementine Churchill told Diana Cooper at Marrakesh in 1944, "I think Winston will die when it's over — we're patting all we have into this war, and it will take all we have."

Like many other of the nuggets, this comment has already been published. Very frequently, indeed, Gilbert uses comments from published diaries and autobiographies for his punch lines. They play much the same part in the biography as decoded Enigma messages did in the war itself. Yet, as in previous volumes, Gilbert has made the most of Churchill's voluminous private papers, supplementing them with unpublished private diaries and letters from members of his war secretariat. The latter he solicited in an appeal on Desert Island Discs.

Unlike Roosevelt, Churchill was preoccupied with strategy and, like Stalin, he firmly believed that "war is a constant struggle." He wrote in 1941, "and it is only with some difficulty and within limits that provision can be made for the future." He was always impatient with "mischievous makers and sowers of tares" who hindered "the great machines rolling into battle." "All our operations are being spoiled by overloading and playing for safety," he wrote in March 1943. "Improvise and dare," he told General Maitland Wilson later in the same year.

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## Peculiar London

By Alan Brien

LONDONERS, by Nicholas Shakespeare (Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95; cloth £12.95).  
MAYFAIR: A SOCIAL HISTORY, by Carol Kennedy (Hutchinson, £12.95).

THE caller insisted the Directory Inquiries operator spelled out the long Greek name — "She said, 'Are you sure that's right? Yes, I said. Why? Well, she said, 'I must know exactly because I'm about to have it tattooed on my arm'."

Wapping has the oldest police station in the world, set up in 1798. London has 18,421 taxi drivers and 8,000 of them live around Gant's Hill.

Men in nightclubs often complain their wives are too intelligent and requisition the most cheerful, stupid hostess on the premises. Gavin Stamp, architectural historian, occupies an entire house but to date burglars keeps six bull pushes on the door frame.

"Everybody thinks their milk is fresh on the doorstep," said the milkman, "but it could be up to a week old."

A random selection of one-liners gathered from Nicholas Shakespeare's eminently browsable Londoners. Most of the text, however, consists of longer interviews, profiles and outings as he tracks down and notes every kind of metropolitan type the most dedicated London perambulator could imagine plus quite a few Dickens could not have invented. No amount of tedium, discomfort, embarrassment, rudeness or even danger prevents him from visiting their unnatural habitat and filling his notebook with quotable quotes.

The device is not new but none of the many who have followed in the wake of the great Henry Mayhew has come so near to equalling him. Stockbroker, murderer, call girl, retoucher, rag-and-bone man, spy, waiter, cab driver, wig-maker, madman — his 200 gaudy figures stand up on the page like penguins in a pop-up volume. I can almost forgive him for insisting on an index, a grave flaw in a work that rightly aspires to scholarship as well as entertainment.

Carol Kennedy's Mayfair is subtitled "A Social History" though it might be more accurate to have called it "A Socialite History". In Mayfair, the difference is anyway minimal.

Most of the early decades in the story have been often described, and it is not a book that is very rewarding read attentively line by line. Better judicious skipping until you come across such as the surveyor's report on Florence Nightingale's house at 10 South Street. She had taken to her bed here in 1885 and remained in it until her death in 1910. The Grosvenor Estate minutes note that the house was far below the standards of sanitation and hygiene she had pioneered in the Crimea — had drainage, inadequate lavatories, and no bathroom.

Whatever the circumstances, what comes out clearly throughout this volume is the richness and exuberance of Churchill's personality. He had his moods just as he had his problems, but there was never any failure of nerve or spirit. Political leaders are rare, but Churchill was always far more than a political leader.

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## Our own Voltayer

By Douglas Johnneon

VOLTAIRE, by A. J. Ayer (Weidenfeld, £14.95).

IN THE 1740s a clandestine manuscript circulated in Paris which sought to define what a philosopher was. It said that he should be a man who had freed himself from the prejudices imposed by religion, who is governed by reason as Christians are governed by grace, whose principles are based on observation, who studies the universe without believing that he will discover all its secrets and who achieves probity because he follows reason.

In the eighteenth century it is Voltaire who most clearly follows these precepts; today, in England, it seems to be A. J. Ayer who fits the picture. There is a resemblance too between the short quick-fire sentences of Voltaire's style and the rapid and incisive sentences of Ayer's lectures. What could be more appropriate than that Ayer should write on Voltaire? (It's probably not true that the publishers considered calling the book "Voltaire".)

The starting point is the fact that whereas everyone knows Voltaire, whose reputation has remained considerable for more than two centuries, few people read him. His epic and dramatic poetry, which was admired well into the romantic period by such people as Byron, is now forgotten. The wide-ranging historical works are neglected, as are his forays into science and mathematics. His championing of causes in the name of justice is remembered only in the most general way. Thus

with the exception of the *conte*, especially *Candide*, Voltaire is revered and unread.

Professor Ayer has made what he calls a not exhaustive but serious attempt to repair this deficiency. Wisely avoiding the textual and bibliographical forests which swallow up most Voltaire scholars he has presented us with a brief biography and then an examination of several themes.

It is only to be expected that Ayer does not simply present Voltaire's views. He discusses them, sometimes as if he were discussing them in Voltaire's presence. Thus Voltaire commenting on Pascal is followed by Ayer commenting upon both ("Voltaire mistakes a scientific for a philosophical question," "Both Pascal and Voltaire go astray here"), and his deism is subjected to a particularly close scrutiny ("I interrupt Voltaire at this point to remark that his reasoning here has gone astray," "I own that unlike Voltaire, I am not entirely convinced by Locke").

But while doling his attitude to the Jews, finding his constant attacks on Christianity tedious, and regretting his deism, Ayer clearly admires Voltaire's acumen, honesty and courage. He quotes from *Micromegas*, the story of the two giants who visit the earth and who falsely suppose that human beings spend their lives in love and thought, since these constitute the true life of the spirit and the only genuine source of happiness. "Hara," writes Ayer, "I believe that Voltaire was speaking for himself."

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